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## Ramon agrees to Histadrut alignment with Labor

MICHAEL YUDELMAN and AMIR ROZENBLIT

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon took his first step back to the Labor Party over the weekend when he agreed to form a Ram-Labor alignment in the Histadrut.

Ramon reached this agreement during a meeting with Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivili, who has been active in trying to get Ramon to return to the party, after it expelled him when Ramon decided to run against Labor in the Histadrut elections.

A Ram-Labor alignment is also seen as the first move in Labor's regaining control of the Histadrut, which it lost to Ramon in last May's Histadrut elections. Zivili updated the leaders of Labor's Histadrut faction on these developments over the weekend and will recommend the Ram-Labor alignment to the faction today. The faction is expected to adopt the recommendation and set up a team, headed by faction chairman Haim Haberfeld, to negotiate the alignment with Ram leaders.

Not everyone in Labor is overjoyed with the news of Ramon's possible return. Police Minister Moshe Shaleh launched a scathing attack on Ramon last week, saying that what he had done in the Histadrut "is of tragic proportions, causing incalculable social and economic damage. The signs of this tragedy are only just beginning to be perceived."

Shaleh told political reporters that Ramon acted in the Histadrut like "a child who smashes and shatters a new toy, without giving any thought to what would happen afterwards. The damage he has caused is irrevocable."

He said, however, that he supports Ramon's return to Labor because he prefers settling accounts with Ramon inside the party rather than outside it. "There is also some objection in Labor's Histadrut faction to Ramon's predicted return to Labor," leaving us to clean up the mess after him and to try to mend the irreparable damage he has caused," a faction source said yesterday. Coalition executive member Gideon Ben-Yisrael said the alignment proposal is ridiculous, and holds nothing new for Labor.

Meanwhile, Histadrut trade union section head MK Amir Peretz, who was in Beersheba yesterday, said there was no justification at this stage for Ramon to join the Labor government. "I think that those who voted for us in the Histadrut expect us to continue our mission there. What would justify such a move would be if a question of national importance is on the agenda, affecting all Israelis, which does not appear in the offing at the moment."

"There is no reason to join the government just for the sake of unity," Peretz said. "For now, I support Ramon continuing as Histadrut chairman, and I believe he will continue in that capacity." He warned that "if the Labor party tries to settle accounts with us and treats us like 'rebellious sons,' instead of like its own flesh and blood, we will not be able to be partners."

### Ahmed Tibi may be questioned by police

AHMED Tibi, senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, may be summoned for interrogation on allegations of incitement to violence at recent anti-settlement demonstrations, police sources said over the weekend.

An inquiry into the allegations against Tibi is being conducted by investigators of the Judea and Samaria police district. The district spokesman declined to comment on the case last night. Tibi, in an interview with Israel Radio on Friday, denied the allegations, and said the investigation was politically motivated.

Bill Hutman



Shira Ziskind's car after it was pulled out of the Ayalon River yesterday.

(Hanoach Grizitsky, Israel Sun)

## Missing woman soldier found dead in overturned car in Ayalon River

A WOMAN soldier missing for more than a day was found dead in her car yesterday afternoon in the Ayalon River in Tel Aviv, about 100 meters north of Geshet Habalacha, after apparently swerving off the Ayalon Highway early Friday morning.

Shira Ziskind, 18, of Kfar Sava, was found in the driver's seat of the car, wearing a seatbelt. Police said she had apparently fallen asleep at the wheel. The car was found by jet-skiers in the area, who alerted police.

She will be buried today at the Kfar Sava cemetery. She was survived by her parents and two younger brothers.

Police said that a preliminary investigation showed the car apparently swerved suddenly, crossed an area that should have been protected by a security fence that is currently under repair, and then fell off a flood gate and sank into the river.

Ziskind's family was called to the site and identified her. Ziskind was doing her regular army service and worked evenings in the

Hangover pub, near the Tel Aviv Cinerama. She had finished work at about 4 a.m. Thursday night, and was driving her father's car.

Police said witnesses had seen the car headed north on the Ayalon Highway at about 4:40 Friday morning. She was to have given her father the car Friday afternoon, and when she failed to turn up he called police and declared her missing. Hundreds of volunteers searched for her, along with police, who used light planes in the search.

"We feared the worst," family members said. "It didn't seem possible that Shira, who was never late, and who was so responsible, would disappear. It was obvious she hadn't disappeared on her own."

Dafna Pendlor, her high school homeroom teacher, said: "Shira got a special permit from the army to work because of her ambition to be independent. Her parents begged her not to work, not to go out at night, but she insisted on having her independence."

Recent strong rains had apparently in-

creased the current in the river, making the car difficult to find at first, even from the air.

Amir Rozenblit adds: The family of an English moshav volunteer who was killed in an accident Friday night agreed to donate his organs for use in transplants here.

Sean Marston, 18, of Wales, died together with his girlfriend, Michal Ichar, 19, of Moshav Lachish, when they were hit by a van while walking along the side of the Kiryat Gat-Ashkelon road.

The accident occurred near Kiryat Gat around midnight. The driver, a woman from the moshav who apparently could not see them, struck the two, who were taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. The two died at the hospital. Marston's heart will be used for a transplant at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, while his kidneys have been sent to the national organ donor center. His corneas and skin will remain for transplant at Soroka.

## Girl, 16, arrested as abductor's accomplice

RAINE MARCUS

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl who was allegedly the accomplice of Avi Sapan in last week's kidnapping of soldier Keren Gertler was remanded for 10 days on Friday in Tel Aviv Juvenile Court.

The girl was arrested Thursday night after police had been searching for the accomplice, who held Gertler in a Magdiel house for several hours last Tuesday. The girl is related to Sapan, who was killed in a shoot-out with police. Since the suspect is a juvenile, no identifying details may be published.

Detectives who attended Sapan's funeral on Thursday, noticed the girl behaving strangely. "She was trembling and panicky," said a detective.

They arrested her the same evening, after they had already questioned several other family members. She had been absent from her Tel Aviv high school since the kidnapping.

The girl admitted she had assisted in the abduction and reenacted it for police, who also found the car she and Sapan used to get to the Gertler home in Tel Baruch. She told police she had been forced to take part in the kidnapping.

Keren Gertler, granddaughter of former Diamond Exchange President Moshe Shnitzer, was kidnapped by Sapan and the girl on her way to her army base last Tuesday morning.

The girl, who was dressed in army uniform, and "who looked very young," Gertler said, asked her the way to the Kirya. As they were speaking, Sapan, dressed in haredi clothing, threatened Gertler at gunpoint through her open car window.

The two drove her to the small house in Magdiel, a suburb of Hod Hasharon, where Gertler was photographed with a Polaroid camera and then drugged. Sapan left the two and went to



The 16-year-old girl suspected of participating in last Tuesday's kidnapping of Keren Gertler is taken by police to her remand hearing Friday in Tel Aviv. (Hanoach Grizitsky/Israel Sun)

meet her father, Asher Gertler, a diamond dealer, to ostensibly collect the ransom—some \$2 million worth of cash and loose diamonds. Instead, Sapan kidnapped the elder Gertler at gunpoint, forcing him to drive away in his own car.

Using sophisticated electronic methods, police traced Gertler's car by tracking down the location of his cellular phone.

Sapan was shot dead by police after Asher Gertler managed to escape from the car. Gertler suffered a minor gunshot wound in the knee.

The girl freed Keren after she lost phone contact with Sapan. Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, director of the National Council for the Child, was critical of the way po-

lice had questioned the girl. In a letter to Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz, Kadman wrote that the girl had been questioned by detectives throughout the night, contrary to regulations regarding youth interrogations.

"She was also questioned by regular detectives and not by juvenile squad detectives, as required by law," said Kadman, who accused police of violating the girl's rights.

But in court on Friday, family members said police had treated the girl "very well" and were in constant touch with family to update them.

Defense Lawyer Avraham Landstein said the girl had a complicated relationship with Sapan, and was under "tremendous

pressure to take part in the kidnapping."

"She admired, even worshiped him," said Landstein. Other shocked family members who were in court agreed with him.

"She would do anything he said," said one relative. "She's a great girl and this is totally unexpected. I hope the police and prison authorities take good care of her. I know that the offense is serious, but we don't want anything to happen to her. She must have been forced into doing what she did."

The girl's mother was also present in court. Police and the district attorney's office are expected to prepare an indictment against the girl this week.

## FMs meet in Washington in attempt to break impasse

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

ISRAEL and the Palestinians will try to break the impasse in the autonomy talks at today's foreign ministers meeting in Washington, after last week's meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza failed to make progress.

President Bill Clinton will open the meeting, which is to be attended by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, and chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath.

The event is meant to move the peace talks forward during "a period that's obviously a very difficult one," a senior administration official said Friday.

High on the agenda will be building "some tangible forms of cooperation" through multilateral economic development, the official said.

Clinton will take part "as a measure of his support" and will then depart, turning the proceedings over to Christopher, he added.

At yesterday's Palestinian Authority cabinet meeting, PA ministers said they drew up a memorandum of their demands, which will be presented at the Washington gathering.

"If this meeting tomorrow does not respond positively to Palestinian concerns, it will be a useless and unnecessary meeting and it will wreak havoc on the entire peace process," said Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Ahmed Oreia.

"I think the peace process is facing serious danger," said Local Affairs Minister Saeb Erekat. "Either Israel makes peace by implementing the agreement ... or Israel says it doesn't want peace, and then we are facing a serious collapse of the peace process," he said.

Late Thursday, Arafat met at his office with the US consul in Jerusalem, Ed Abbotson, and requested greater American involvement in the negotiations, said his adviser, Ahmed Tibi.

"The US administration should play a more active role and help the parties to implement the treaty," Tibi told the Associated Press.

Later Thursday, Arafat received a call from President Clinton's Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, Tibi said. He did not disclose details of the conversation.

In Gaza on Friday, Arafat met with Russian envoy Viktor Posolayuk for 90 minutes. According to aides, he asked for Russia's help in breaking the deadlock.

Arafat also contacted representatives of Egypt, Russia, Nor-

way and the United Nations and asked them for help, Tibi said.

But Israeli officials on Friday rejected the idea of mediation, saying experience showed that only direct talks brought results.

"It doesn't work like that, that every time there is a problem they [the Palestinians] will go to the big brothers and cry for help," said the head of the Government Press Office, Uri Dromi.

Dromi said the ball was now in Arafat's court.

"If he wants to resume the peace process, he knows exactly what to do," Dromi said, adding that Rabin on Thursday gave him a specific list of demands on fighting extremists.

Nabil Abu Redineh, a spokesman for Arafat, said the Oslo agreement is still alive and is the only way to achieve peace. "As long as the Americans and the Egyptians are involved, the spirit of Oslo is alive," he said.

According to Abu Redineh, negotiations between the PA and Israel will continue and the election committee will meet again this week.

Today's Washington meeting will last about two hours, beginning just after noon at the Blair House, the US government's official guest house across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House.

"From an American perspective, what may be most important about it is that it is an opportunity for us to make very clear once again, that we are determined to do all we can toward making progress and moving toward the kind of future in the Middle East everybody can see," the administration official said of the meeting.

Progress on a joint communiqué awaited Moussa's arrival yesterday from Tokyo, Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Maher Said told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Today's Blair House meeting "creates an opportunity to think through what other things can be done to try to promote the process," the official said.

"Obviously the economic area is one of those that is a likely area for discussion, but this meeting is an opportunity for the ministers to flesh some of this out."

"It's very important from our standpoint to look at this as something that can help in the current climate," he said.

The Clinton administration has briefed Syria on plans for today's meeting and expects that Damascus will not feel isolated by being absent from the proceedings, he added.

In Damascus, Syrian President Hafez Assad and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi discussed the latest developments in the peace process and coordinated their positions regarding the meeting today.

Lamia Lahoud contributed to this report.

## Egypt won't condemn Hamas, Hizbullah or Islamic Jihad

SHMUEL SEGEV

NEW YORK

EGYPTIAN diplomats made it clear to the US last week that their country would oppose any statement condemning terrorism at today's five-way foreign ministers' meeting in Washington, if the statement refers specifically to Hizbullah, Islamic Jihad, or Hamas, diplomatic sources said.

Upon his return to Israel from the Cairo summit 10 days ago, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin implied that the part of the joint communiqué condemning "all acts of violence" was also directed at Syria.

Egypt, however, does not endorse this interpretation. In an effort to avoid any misunderstanding in Washington, Egyptian diplomats informed the State Department that any communiqué condemning terrorism should be worded "in very general terms" and should not mention any organization by name.

The sources said that, in light of President Hafez Assad's displeasure with the Cairo summit, Egypt does not want to antagonize Syria any further by condemning Hizbullah, which operates in Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon, or Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which have offices in Damascus. Egypt maintains that the Washington parley should concentrate on getting the Palestinian issues back on track.





# Clinton anti-terror bill given to Congress

THE Clinton administration presented the country's most comprehensive anti-terrorism bill to Congress on Friday.

Movement on the bill accelerated following the Beit Lid bombing. At that time, President Bill Clinton froze the assets of 12 terrorist groups and announced he was preparing legislation to deal with the terrorist threat in the US, which he termed a "national emergency."

The Justice, State and Treasury departments teamed up to produce the bill, following consultations over the last few weeks with the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the committee's ranking Democrat and the bill's sponsor, said at a press conference Friday

HILLEL KUTTLER  
WASHINGTON

that he supported most of its provisions because "international terrorism requires a federal response."

Such incidents as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing demonstrate that "the US and its allies continue to be the focus of extremists who are willing and able to use violence to advance their cause," Biden said.

Senators Herbert Kohl (D-Wisconsin) and Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania) joined Biden in co-sponsoring the legislation.

Major provisions of the Omnibus Counter-Terrorism Act of 1995 include making international terrorism a federal offense;

making terrorist murder a federal offense punishable by death, and making fund-raising in the US for terrorist groups illegal.

It also permits law enforcement agencies to wiretap phones of those suspected of planning terrorist acts and authorizes deportation of US aliens engaged in terrorist activity.

But Biden said he opposed the law's enabling aliens to be deported without seeing the evidence against them.

The bill attributed 24 terrorist acts to international groups that receive support from within the US. Among them were the 1985 attacks at the El Al counters in Rome and Vienna, as well as the murder that same year of Leon Klinghoffer during the *Achille Lauro* hijacking.

## Lebanese army arrests suspected aide to Abu Nidal

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanon's army intelligence arrested a Palestinian believed to be a senior official and hit-man in Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), security sources said yesterday.

They said Mahmoud Khaled Attour, alias Abu Ali Majed, was wanted in Lebanon in connection with a string of bombings and assassinations.

Attour was seized at a military checkpoint several days ago, and was still being interrogated by army intelligence, Lebanese security sources said. He has not yet been handed over to the courts.

They said Lebanese authorities had a "thick, heavy file" on Attour, who was believed to be a planner in Abu Nidal's group.

Palestinian sources in Sidon said Attour was Abu Nidal's top official in the southern Lebanese city.

Attour was believed to have carried out assassinations in disputes between Palestinian groups.

He was also suspected of involvement in Abu Nidal's 1987 hijack of a yacht in the Mediterranean with a Belgian family on board, whose members were held hostage for nearly four years, the Palestinian sources said.

Gunmen seized the family of four as they were making their way to Australia. They were held captive in an unknown location in the Middle East until January 12, 1991, when they were freed on the same day that Belgium freed a Palestinian terrorist whose release Abu Nidal demanded.

The terrorist, Said Nasser, was freed after serving one-third of a 30-year jail sentence for killing a Jewish child.



Palestinian youth wait at the Machpela Cave on Friday, hoping to be allowed in after the day's quota had been filled. (AP)

## Soroka director denies doctors leaving hospital

AMIR ROZENBLUT

SOROKA Hospital director Dr. Haim Reuveni on Friday denied media reports that the hospital was in serious trouble and that doctors were abandoning the Beersheba institution.

"Soroka Hospital is not in desperate straits. Doctors are not leaving it, but rather joining it," Reuveni said.

The reports said the institution's crumbling infrastructure and poor conditions had driven away doctors. But Reuveni said that although eight senior doctors and six department heads had left in the past five years, 15 senior doctors had joined the facility, 21 had returned from study abroad and eight were to return during the course of the year. Another 47 immigrant doctors were absorbed by the hospital.

Reuveni admitted that a lack of

investment in the hospital's infrastructure in recent years had led to severe overcrowding, with patients kept in the hallways, the dining room, and opposite doctors' offices. Doctors say this situation could threaten the patients' health.

He said that work was under way to increase its capacity by 200 beds, and there should be no more patients in the hallways by next month.

Additional investment in the hospital this year by Kupat Holim Clalit will allow improvement in the operating rooms, delivery rooms, emergency rooms, and the construction of new departments, including a new intensive care unit.

Reuveni said, however, that another hospital was needed in the Negev hospital.

## Separation plan ready - Shahal

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE plan to separate Israel from the Palestinians has been completed and will be presented to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by the end of the month, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told political reporters last week, after attending the Rabin and Arafat meeting.

Shahal said the separation line will divide Israelis and Palestinians, but will not "indicate the future permanent line, or lead to political confrontations that will hinder the talks with the Palestinians."

The separation plan will enable stricter supervision of the Palestinians who enter Israel, without having to resort to closure, he said. Shahal noted, however, that a hermetic sealing of the territories is impossible, and warned that while terrorist attacks will be reduced, they cannot be stopped altogether.

Shahal said the separation line is not along the 1967 borders, and takes into consideration settlements such as Oranit and Arab villages that the Green Line sepa-

rated arbitrarily.

Shahal denied reports of an impasse in the talks between Israel and the PLO, and said it was possible to overcome the difficulties. He said Rabin impressed on Arafat that terrorist attacks make it impossible to advance the autonomy agreement.

Yam adds:

Meanwhile, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said last night that building a separation fence south of the Jewish settlements in the northern Gaza Strip would be a violation of the Cairo Agreement, and is therefore out of the question.

However, residents of Dugit, Nissanit and Eilat Sinai say they will still be exposed to terror attacks if the fence is built to the north. This is why they have asked that an electronic separation fence be constructed to the south of their settlements. They said the fence would be similar to the one built west of Sha'ar Hanegvev and Gush Eshkol, which has ensured the security of those residents.

## Poll: 77% of public oppose easing closure

Most Israelis oppose any easing of the nearly three-week-old closure of the territories, according to an opinion poll published on Friday.

The Dahaf poll, which appeared in *Yediot Aharanot*, found 77% of the 504 people surveyed believed there was "no need" to relax the closure of the territories, imposed after the Beit Lid massacre.

Twenty-one percent thought the closure should be eased, while two percent had no opinion.

The poll was conducted last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Jerusalem Post Staff

## UN circulates letter from 'State of Palestine'

MARLYN HENRY

NEW YORK

THE Palestinian envoy to the UN caused a minor flap last week, when he signed a letter on behalf of the "State of Palestine," which then circulated as an official UN document.

The PLO and Papua New Guinea recently wrote to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Chali, informing him they had established relations. When Dr. Nasser Kidwa signed the letter, he referred to himself as repre-

sending the "State of Palestine" rather than saying he was the PLO observer at the UN.

This letter included a routine request that it be circulated as a UN document. In an apparent oversight, the UN gave the letter an official number and distributed it. After the Israeli mission complained this had the effect of recognizing a Palestinian state, the secretary-general nixed the document.

## Finance officials accused of bribe-taking

SENIOR Finance Ministry officials in the controller's branch took bribes in exchange for business favors, a fraud investigator told Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on Friday.

At the hearing, police asked the court to extend the remands of Noah Mann, who arranges government office space in Tel Aviv and is a coordinator in the Treasury's controller's branch, and Yehzekel Pollak, a businessman who rents office space to various government ministries. They were both remanded on February 2 for 11 days.

Police suspect that Pollak gave Mann checks and cash totaling thousands of shekels, paid for NIS 10,000 in car repairs and bought him a NIS 1,400 computer printer. Mann is also suspected of taking thousands of shekels in bribes from other businessmen. He admitted to police that Pollak had financed his car repairs, but denied the other charges.

Chief Supt. Meir Michaelovich told the court that police suspect other officials accepted bribes from Pollak.

The judge, however, rejected the police request to keep the two in jail, saying that their release would not harm the investigation. But the judge agreed to keep them under house arrest for 15 days.

It was agreed to release the two only this afternoon, pending a police appeal to the district court. The appeal is to be heard this morning. (Iim)



The Israel Prize in exact sciences for \$755 will be awarded to Prof. Yisrael Dostrovsky (left) for his work in chemistry at Rehovot's Weizmann Institute, and Prof. Michael Rabin for his contributions to the field of computer science. (IPPA)

## Congressmen to Europe: Don't arm Syria

HILLEL KUTTLER  
WASHINGTON

A BIPARTISAN group of 58 US congressmen is urging European leaders not to sell arms to Syria.

The action comes three months after the European Union lifted an embargo on arms sales to Syria that it had imposed in 1986, after bombings in Europe in which Damascus was implicated.

In a letter to the heads of the 15 EU countries, the congressmen said they understand that "sales of military items entail economic benefits," but that "the need to maintain international cohesiveness and to engender Syria's peaceful behavior significantly outweighs any financial gain."

BEIRUT (AP) - Three senior European Union officials wound up a four-day tour of the Middle East on Friday, saying Arab and Israeli leaders were determined

The letter, which was sent Thursday, was sponsored by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and James Saxton (R-NJ). The two also chair the congressional Peace Accord Monitoring Group that monitors PLO compliance with the Oslo accords.

Although the ban has been lifted, the congressmen want each member country to "pause and consider" whether to go ahead and sell arms to a country still on the State Department's list of terror-sponsoring nations, Engel's

spokesman Frank Pizzurro said Friday.

"That's our best hope," he said.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Thursday that his country has sharply cut back its economic dealings with Iran.

Speaking at a joint White House news conference following his meeting with President Bill Clinton, Kohl said Germany is "not willing to add any support to

fundamentalism." Kohl disputed charges that Germany is helping build up Iran now, or that it had also assisted Iraq prior to the Gulf War.

"We are talking about Israel here, among other things," Kohl said. "And if a German chancellor, 50 years after Auschwitz, talks about Israel, you may believe him when he says that he has a great interest in that process being successful and that we would not dream of supporting any policy in that part of the world which might in any way impede Israel's prospects for a peaceful future."

## EU officials: Parties determined to make peace

BEIRUT (AP) - Three senior European Union officials wound up a four-day tour of the Middle East on Friday, saying Arab and Israeli leaders were determined

to shore up the peace process. "There is a role for Europe in the peace operation, to go alongside that of the United States and Russia," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said at the presidential palace before the group's departure from Beirut at nightfall.

Juppe, who is the current president of the EU council of ministers, was accompanied by Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz, Germany's secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Carlos Westendorp, Spain's secretary of state for the European Union.

They met during their seven-hour stay in Beirut with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz.

The EU officials had talks with

Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza before arriving in Beirut. It was the first visit by an EU delegation since the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

Juppe said the EU supported Lebanon's demand for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the security zone in southern Lebanon, in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

### Two wounded by rocks

Two motorists were lightly wounded by rocks thrown at them last night on the Trans-Samaria Highway, Israel Radio reported. They were both given first-aid treatment.

## Escaped prisoner caught in Beit She'an

ONE of the three prisoners who escaped from the Tel Aviv District Court lockup on Thursday was caught the next day at his aunt's home in Beit She'an.

Michel Suissa was found sleeping in the apartment by three police officers who arrived in civilian clothes. They asked the aunt to step outside for a moment and as one policeman spoke with her, the other two entered the home.

The other two prisoners, Chen Alfassi and Nissim Bigawi, are still at large. The three are awaiting trial for a series of armed robberies in the Tel Aviv area.

They were at court Thursday for their remand hearing, at which they were remanded until trial. They were waiting in the cell to be taken back to the Abu Kabir lockup.

Suissa told police that when he was brought into the lockup, he saw that there were no bars on the ventilation grids and quickly escaped.

Police had believed that the other two were in Tiberias, but searches there have turned up nothing. (Iim)

With great sorrow we announce the passing of my dear sister, our dear mother and grandmother

**MARGARET KAHN**  
(née Metzenberg)

The funeral will take place today,  
Sunday, February 12, 1995, at 3 p.m.,  
at the Ramot Hashavim Cemetery

Lies Mannheim  
Daniel, Yael and Sharon Kahn  
Michael, Amnona, Boaz, Neta-ly and Uri Kahn  
Rina, Yuval and Maayan Kahn

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

**HAROLD ISAACSON**  
(of Netanya, formerly Manchester).

The funeral took place on Friday.

Bereaved Wife: Miriam  
Sons: Adrian and Eric

Shiva in Kibbutz Alumim (Tel. 07-949762)

The Staff and Management of the Jerusalem Post  
offer sincere condolences to

**Eli Snir**  
on the death of his father

**ZANA SHIMON SNIR**

**JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, I.B.A.**  
Music Director: DAVID SHALLON  
57th SEASON 1994-95

**DAVID SHALLON, Conductor**  
**FRANK-PETER ZIMMERMANN, Soloist**  
First Appearance in Israel

Ben-Zion Orgad "Building a King's Stage"  
Richard Strauss "Death and Transfiguration"  
(First Performance in Israel)  
Johannes Brahms Violin Concerto

Wednesday, 15.2 Series A-B  
Thursday, 16.2 Series C  
8.00 p.m., Henry Crown Symphony Hall

**DAVID SHALLON, Conductor**  
**CECILE OUSSET, Soloist**

**A Musical Voyage from Brahms to the "Beatles"**  
Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2 & Hungarian Dances No. 7 and 10  
J. Strauss Overture "The Gypsy Baron" & Hungarian Polka  
Berlioz Hungarian March from "The Damnation of Faust"  
Offenbach Overture "Orpheus in the Underworld"  
Andrew Lloyd-Weber Excerpts from "Phantom of the Opera"  
"Beatles" Hits Medley

Tuesday, 21.2 Series D  
Wednesday, 22.2 Series E  
8.00 p.m., Henry Crown Symphony Hall

The Orchestra's Box Tel. 611498-9 Sun - Thur 16-19 Friday 10-13

سكناء من الوصل



## Austria buries Gypsies murdered by neo-Nazis

News agencies  
OBERWART, Austria

AUSTRIA'S president was joining busloads of mourners yesterday for the funeral of four Gypsies killed by a bomb, police believe was set by right-wing extremists.

The killings last weekend, the first such ethnically motivated slaying since World War II, has shaken Austria. Police are under criticism for failing to find the culprits and have offered a reward of 3 million schillings (\$320,000) for information leading to an arrest.

Yesterday's national papers carried a police-issued composite sketch of a suspect with dark hair and a long, dark moustache.

President Thomas Klestil headed a large contingent of dignitaries and party leaders, and the town of Oberwart was sealed off for solemn ceremonies that lasted well into the evening.

Several thousand people, including immigrant solidarity groups and anti-fascist demonstrators, were expected to attend. Flags were to be lowered on official buildings throughout the country in a sign of Austria's dismay at what police suspect was a calculated killing by an underground neo-Nazi group.

The shockwaves of the bombing last weekend reverberated through the week in this country, stirring memories of the 1930s when Nazism was on the rise.

Political leaders called it an attempt to destabilize the country, and pledged to defend democratic values established for two generations after Austria's defeat as part of the Third Reich.

Austria had thought itself spared the sort of neo-Nazi violence that has plagued immigrants in neighboring Germany.

There has been criticism of a national police force and security service which has so far failed to convict anyone of a series of letter-bomb and pipe-bomb attacks going back to late 1993 and linked to rightwing extremists.

The far-right leader Joerg Haider has also come under fire for anti-immigrant rhetoric which, his critics allege, has fanned the flames of xenophobia and indirectly encouraged violence.

All four Gypsies were Austrian citizens. Their deaths were the first fatalities in the wave of unsolved bombings.

Police were also seeking witnesses who may have seen anyone depositing two letters claiming responsibility both for the Oberwart bombing and another explosion two days later at a nearby town housing many ethnic Croats.

The letters were signed by a neo-Nazi group calling itself the Bavarian Liberation Army.

On Thursday, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky placed flowers at the spot where the bomb exploded.

Relatives of the dead Gypsies told him they were afraid of more violence. One man, the survivor of Nazi concentration camps, said he had received a telephone death threat just hours before Vranitzky's visit, warning "You're next."

Vranitzky said he was "deeply depressed" in the presence of a dangerous enemy with "no conscience".

Few people were on the streets yesterday morning.

"I think no one expected it would happen here, because in Burgenland there are a lot of minorities," said sales clerk Rita Neubold, 19.



Degas's masterpiece, *Place de la Concorde*, is shown at a press conference in St. Petersburg, Russia's Hermitage Museum offered a sneak preview of 74 paintings seized from Germany at the end of World War II and kept secret for 50 years. (AP)

## Space shuttle Discovery lands safely

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) - The US space shuttle Discovery returned home in triumph yesterday after an eight-day flight that featured a historic rendezvous with the Russian space station.

Commander James Wetherbee guided the shuttle down onto the runway at Kennedy Space Center at 6:50 a.m. just before sunrise.

About 250 people gathered in the early-morning chill to welcome Discovery home, including the families of the six astronauts.

"Welcome home and congratulations on an outstanding mission," Mission Control told the crew.

The last of Discovery's 5.6 million km journey took the shuttle diagonally across

the United States in darkness: Over Washington state, Idaho and Wyoming, down through the Midwest and South and on into Florida.

The three Russian cosmonauts aboard the orbiting Mir station watched Discovery's landing via a special television hookup. Wetherbee steered the shuttle within 11 meters of the station on Monday.

## Clinton nominee for surgeon general did sterilizations on retarded women

WASHINGTON (AP) - Dr. Henry Foster, President Clinton's embattled nominee for surgeon general, performed a small number of hysterectomies to sterilize severely mentally retarded women two decades ago, a senior administration official said yesterday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Foster performed the sterilizations at a time when the medical community believed such procedures were justified as providing health benefits to the women.

The revelation about the hysterectomies followed a swirl of activity in which the administration tried to prop up Foster's beleaguered nomination - the latest blow to the troubled Clinton White House.

Foster, whose nomination as the nation's top public health officer has been rocked by revelations that he performed 39 abortions as an obstetrician-gynecologist, mentioned his sterilization work in a 1976 article in the *Southern Medical Journal*.

Foster wrote that obstetricians and gynecologists "must guard vigilantly against the injudicious and indiscriminate removal of the nor-

mal uterus."

However, he said the procedure could provide "significant hygienic benefit" to patients with severe mental retardation and problems with menstruation. Most of the article raised concerns about unnecessary hysterectomies on women with healthy uteri.

By the late 1970s, Foster stopped doing the procedures as medical opinion began to discourage removing healthy uteri from mentally retarded women, according to the senior administration official.

"Foster, along with the mainstream of the medical community, no longer accepted that sterilization of mentally retarded women by hysterectomy was appropriate," the official said.

It was not clear how many such operations Foster performed on handicapped women because records from the hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama, where he worked are inadequate.

A leading Democrat, Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, called Clinton's choice of Foster "a political blunder in the extreme" but backed off an earlier pledge to vote against him. (Clinton's Image, Page 4)

## Dresden police detain extreme right leader

DRESDEN (Reuters) - Dresden police detained a far-right leader and several associates yesterday to prevent neo-Nazi disturbances as the city prepared to mark the 50th anniversary of its destruction by British and American bombers.

A police spokesman said Guenter Deckert, leader of the National Democratic Party (NPD), was stopped together with eight associates on a motorway leading to Dresden, where a demonstration planned by the NPD had been banned.

The spokesman said Deckert's presence could have caused "substantial disturbances to public order", adding that the detainees could be held for up to three days subject to the approval of a judge.

Police also detained seven members of the radical right-wing "Alliance for All Germany" which has, like the NPD, been banned from demonstrating in Dresden this weekend.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl is due in the eastern German city today

to attend a memorial service for the 35,000 victims of the World War Two firebombing of Dresden's baroque city centre on the night of February 13, 1945.

Those attending the main ceremonies tomorrow include the Duke of Kent, cousin of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, German President Roman Herzog, German, British and US military commanders and the mayors of Dresden and its British twin city Coventry, also destroyed in the war.

Dresden police have boosted their presence in the face of expected attempts by nationalist or neo-Nazi groups to hold demonstrations during the ceremonies.

They said there could also be counter-demonstrations from left-wing groups. But by yesterday evening no protests of any kind had been reported.

Deckert said he had intended to observe the demonstration but, wanted to distribute leaflets in the city centre demanding that perpetrators of war crimes against Germany should be punished.

## Materials may reveal bomb plots

NEW YORK (AP) - Materials left in a Philippines apartment detailed a plane bombing and plot to kill the pope that authorities suspect were planned by the man accused of masterminding the World Trade Center explosion. *The New York Times* said yesterday.

US federal agents told the newspaper that Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, 27, may have supplied the financial backing, organization and technical expertise for the plots.

Yousef is accused of plotting the 1993 explosion at New York's World Trade Center that killed six people and injured more than 1,000. He has pleaded innocent.

Philippine police said last month they suspected Yousef of being involved in a plot to kill Pope John Paul II in Manila.

The announcement came after police said they seized bomb-making chemicals and computers in a raid on a Manila apartment the week before the pope's Jan. 12-14 visit to the Philippines.

*The Times*, citing US law enforcement officials who requested anonymity, said Manila police found a computer disk and documents left behind by Middle Eastern terrorists.

## O.J. jury to visit scene of the crime

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The judge in the O.J. Simpson case led the lawyers through a rehearsal of a dramatic departure from the courtroom routine - a visit by the jury to the scene of the crime.

The jury tour will begin at 8:30 a.m. today, Judge Lance Ito said.

With sheriff's deputies in the entourage, Ito and the lawyers went first to the Brentwood condominium where Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were slain the night of June 12.

Tracked by TV helicopters overhead, they continued on to Simpson's estate nearby, where they walked around the grounds and examined places that have been mentioned in testimony.

The jurors will visit the two homes as well as Goldman's apartment and Mezzaluna, the restaurant where he worked as a waiter and where Ms. Simpson dined on their last night of her life.

The media, however, won't be allowed to hover overhead today.

Ito ordered air space over Simpson's property and the crime scene restricted during the visit.

The tour, requested by the prosecution, could help the jurors visualize the sequence of events as alleged by the opposing sides and let them test, for example, whether certain witnesses could have seen what they claim they saw.

The tour presents a host of concerns, including preserving the anonymity of the jurors, protecting Simpson's life and avoiding any kind of incident - such as the display of a banner, a headline or a photograph by onlookers - that could give grounds for appeal or cause a mistrial.

Pool reporters and photographers will go along.

Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson predicted that seeing things for themselves will have a powerful effect on the jurors.

"It's sort of an eerie feeling standing there at the scene of a crime," she said. "It makes it real."

## Mexican president flexes his muscles

JOHN RICE  
MEXICO CITY

PRESIDENT Ernesto Zedillo's decision to unleash the army on rebels in southern Mexico appears designed in part to change a milquetoast image that his critics say has shaken confidence in and outside Mexico.

But it also threatens to raise political tensions in a country where many people have little faith in the ability to achieve political change through the ballot box.

The president has ordered police and army troops to hunt down and arrest rebel leaders, effectively ending a yearlong truce. He claimed they had plotted new acts of violence around the country.

Zedillo has been buffeted from crisis to crisis since taking office on Dec. 1. The economy plunged dramatically and political violence broke out in two southern states - some of it by members of his own Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

The crises helped scare off some of the foreign investment Mexico needs to recover from its economic crisis.

Historians and political commentators had begun to compare him with Mexico's first post-revolutionary president, Francisco Madero, an idealist who was unable to halt the tides of violence in the country.

Zedillo's options seemed limited by his expressions of good intentions.

He entered office promising to restrict his own powers, ending a tradition of monarchical presidentialism in Mexico. He said he would not meddle in affairs of his own party, or in those of Mexico's states.

Hard-liners immediately took advantage of those pledges. PRI members rioted in the state of Tabasco to successfully prevent the rumored ouster of their governor, whom opposition leaders said was elected by fraud.

The southernmost state of Chiapas had been sizzling near the point of explosion as well.

"I am convinced it is possible to achieve a new negotiation in Chiapas that will lead us to a just, honorable and definitive peace," Zedillo said in his inaugural speech. "There will be no violence by the government."

But the Zapatista National Liberation Army and opposition political parties repeatedly seized towns and threatened either new violence or greater protests against alleged electoral fraud there.

The army and local government, meanwhile, permitted illegal vigilante groups organized by angry Chiapas ranchers, who demanded the government crack down on the Zapatistas and their peasant supporters.

Repeated efforts to reach agreements with the Zapatistas and other foes briefly interrupted the violence, but never stopped it.

Zedillo's dramatic strike against the Zapatistas echoes a similar strong-arm tactic by his predecessor, Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Seemingly weakened by a notoriously corrupt election in 1988, Salinas in his first days in office sent police with bazookas to blow the doors off the house of a powerful, ruling party labor leader who was sent to jail for corruption.

Few thereafter dared to challenge Salinas' will. Zedillo claimed he acted after discovering that the Zapatistas "were preparing new and great acts of violence, not only in Chiapas but in other parts of the country."

He also argued that they had originated as a radical leftist guerrilla group in the 1980s and were "not of the people, nor Indian, nor Chiapanecan."

But that origin had been reported as early as January 1994 by the country's leading news magazine, *Proceso*. And whatever the movement's origin, the vast bulk of Zapatistas now are impoverished Maya peasants rebelling against generations of government mistreatment.

Zedillo's act comes just ahead of a series of state elections that could shake the 66-year grip on power of the PRI. (AP)

## Officer killed in Mexican offensive

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS (AP) - Mexican soldiers yesterday moved unopposed into the town at the center of a year-old rebellion, but an army officer and two policemen were killed carrying out President Ernesto Zedillo's surprise crackdown.

Col. Hugo Alfredo Mantorola Cedillo, 48, was killed when a gunman fired on a small convoy outside the village of Nuevo Momon, near Guadalupe Tepeyac, the de facto rebel capital in Chiapas state.

The gunman fled, and a statement from the attorney general's office said it wasn't known whether he was a Zapatista rebel.

Two officers were killed in a raid on a rebel safe house in Mexico state.

Hours after the Nuevo Momon shooting, soldiers entered Guadalupe Tepeyac without resistance. Guerrillas of the Zapatista National Liberation Army apparently had withdrawn into the jungle without risking a fight.

Armored vehicles moved through Las Margaritas, on the edge of the sparsely populated canyon country that the insurgents claim.

In all, the army has entered 11 villages and communities in Mexico's poorest state. (See adjacent story)

## Hundreds of dead Russians pile up in military morgue

JOHN IAMS  
MOSCOW

BROUGHT in by refrigerated trains, the bodies of hundreds of Russian soldiers killed in Chechnya are awaiting identification at military morgues, and are not included in the official death toll.

Pathologists at just one morgue in Rostov-on-Don said they have processed more than 1,000 bodies since the war in Chechnya began Dec. 11.

They also told AP-TV that more than 100 soldiers' corpses were brought in recently, contradicting claims that the fighting in Chechnya is subsiding.

The government's press service yesterday said forces loyal to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev were taking the fight to the countryside, setting up new strongholds in the eastern and western regions of the breakaway republic.

It said 5,500 rebels were deployed in the east, on the border of neighboring Dagestan. Another 6,000 fighters were taking up positions in the west, on the border with Ingushetia, it said.

In the rebel stronghold of Gudermes, 30 km east of the capital Grozny, fighters were girding for an expected Russian assault.

"The fighters are planting mines on the railway track and repair yards, deploying anti-aircraft guns and building fortifications in the town's center," the government news release said.

Russian soldiers manning checkpoints on the western border reported clashes yesterday between government troops and rebels in the towns of Assinovskaya and Barmat, southwest of Grozny.

Meanwhile, special military teams were searching through the ruins of Grozny to find more soldiers' bodies, sending them to morgues like the one in Rostov-on-Don, 600 km northwest of Chechnya, along with new casualties.

At the city's Regional Military Hospital morgue, over 100 bodies recently brought in by a refrigerated train were awaiting identification.

Other corpses were on shelves inside about nine army tents nearby, already identified by unit commanders and awaiting confirmation by next of kin.

Inside the hospital, anxious mothers and other relatives awaited the grim task of examining the naked corpses, searching for family members. Hospital officials refused to allow reporters to speak to them.

On Thursday, Mikhail Kolesnikov, the Russian army's chief of staff, said confirmed Russian losses stood at 1,020. Military officials said earlier 300 bodies of soldiers remained unidentified.

Government casualty lists do not include those who remain unidentified, and with two other morgues - in Mordok and Vladikavkaz on the Chechen border - operating since the war began two months ago, the casualty figures could soar.

Officials at the Rostov morgue said they only took care of dead soldiers, and not casualties among the Interior Ministry forces.

After the bodies are brought to the morgue, two soldiers clean them as best they can prior to identification. Those who are identified are packed in caskets for later transport home. (AP)

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# Shells hit Bihac in Moslem-Serb battle

DAN DE LUCE  
SARAJEVO

HEAVY shelling erupted on the eastern edge of the Bosnian enclave of Bihac yesterday, a United Nations spokesman said.

Some 440 mortar, tank or artillery rounds were reported landing in the area of Bosanska Krupa before midday in fighting between the Moslem-led Bosnian government army and Bosnian Serb troops, UN spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward told reporters.

Moslem-controlled Sarajevo radio said two civilians were killed when two shells slammed into the town close to a base used by a battalion of Bangladeshi peacekeepers.

The UN confirmed only one death but blamed Serb forces, from either Bosnia or nearby Croatia, for a deliberate attack on the safe area.

The Bosnian Serb Army has launched a counter offensive south and west of Bihac to recapture ground lost to Moslem-led government troops last month.

The Bihac fighting breaks a Bosnian ceasefire which took effect at New Year and has mostly held across the rest of the country.

Moslem officials in Bihac, reporting to the Sarajevo government by radio, accused the Bosnian Serbs of using tanks and artillery west of the town.

They said government 5th Corps troops were under infantry and artillery assault further north, in the wider Bihac en-

clave near the town of Velika Kladusa which is held by Serb-backed Moslem rebels opposed to Sarajevo.

Bosnian Serb Army sources also reported fighting around Bihac town and claimed Croatian helicopters had been landing on Moslem-held territory since Friday evening.

The 5th Corps is completely surrounded by Serbs and rebel Moslems and can only be resupplied by air.

Although the Bihac fighting has been contained locally so far, the UN fears that it could destabilise the wider ceasefire if it continues or intensifies.

Neither the rebel Moslems nor Croatian Serbs from the neighbouring self-styled Republic of Serb Krajina, who are allied with them, are part of the truce agreement.

The Serbs and rebels also keep the UN at arms length, making it difficult for the peacekeepers to monitor what is going on accurately.

Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) denied a claim by the commander of the Bosnian government army that people in Bihac were starving to death under a Serb blockade of international aid.

They acknowledged that food shortages were serious but said they had seen no deaths from starvation.

Croatian Serb Prime Minister Borislav Mikelic said in a news-



A Moslem woman carries straw and a container yesterday on her way to collect water in the northwestern Bosnian town of Velika Kladusa, 100 kilometers south of Zagreb. (AP)

paper interview that his forces would not start a war with Zagreb if UN peacekeepers were withdrawn from Croatia but would defend themselves if attacked.

"We won't be the first to use

force but, if forced, we will know how to respond," he told the Serbian daily Dnevnik. Zagreb has ordered the 12,000 peacekeepers in Croatia to pack up and leave within three months of the expiry of

their mandate on March 31. Most are deployed within the self-declared Krajina Serb republic set up on Croatian territory captured during Zagreb's war for independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. (AP)

## Mandela: Future of Robben Island is sensitive

CAPE TOWN (AP) — President Nelson Mandela said yesterday that the prison where he spent 18 years of his life should remain as a monument to the human rights struggle in South Africa.

Speaking to a crowd of more than 1,000 former political prisoners who made a pilgrimage to Robben Island prison, Mandela aimed his speech at possible uses for it. The prison, located in Cape Town's stunning Table Bay, still houses 780 common criminals.

"When the final decision is taken, account will have to be taken of the history of the island, its flora and fauna, its unique position as a place of both political and religious pilgrimage, as well as the country's strategic security interest," Mandela said.

Groups have proposed that the bleak prison, built by inmates like Mandela of stone they quarried, should be turned into a holiday resort, an institute for peace, or a museum. For 30 years, it was used by South Africa's white minority government to isolate and break its opponents.

Kwesi Mkhali, a leader of the Pan Africanist Congress, told yesterday's meeting on the future of the island that the state and private sector should urgently help ex-prisoners, many of whom he said were unemployed, penniless, and lived in squalor.

Mkhali, who was jailed for 19 years on Robben Island, said ex-political prisoners should receive a state pension similar to one received by World War II veterans.

Mandela refused to say whether he approved of any of the proposed ideas for the prison. All were rational possibilities, he said, but any final decision should avoid "vulgarization" that would offend survivors.

A presidential commission will be set up to investigate options for the jail, Mandela said.

Meanwhile, Mandela's estranged wife criticized the Rolling Stones for using a white promoter for upcoming shows here on their Voodoo Lounge tour.

Winnie Mandela, deputy minister of arts, science, culture and technology, also slammed the media and entertainment establishment for "racism" for questioning her role in boosting her daughter's fledgling career as a promoter.

"My ministry takes a dim view of groups like the Rolling Stones who come to South Africa and use a white promoter," Mrs. Mandela said at a news conference.

Mrs. Mandela also lashed out at criticism she has received for using, for example, official lettershead to announce the entry of her daughter, Zindzi Mandela-Hlongwane, into the promotion business.

"Why the outcry?" she said. "The answer is simple — racism."

The promoter, Hazel Feldman, who has been among those accusing Mrs. Mandela of conflict of interest, was quoted as saying in the *Weekend Star* newspaper: "To bring an issue of race against a group such as the Rolling Stones is uncalled for."

## Canada by-election seen a signal on Quebec future

OTTAWA (Reuters) — The outcome of a by-election in Quebec, one of three being held tomorrow to fill vacant seats in Canada's Parliament, will signal the fate of the latest drive for independence, political analysts said.

Opinion polls show the ruling Liberal party and the Quebec separatist Bloc Quebecois running neck-and-neck in the vote in the district of Brome-Missisquoi to replace a member who died.

"Personally I believe the Liberals are going to win, but it is very close," said University of Montreal political scientist Louis Massicotte.

The vote will test support for Quebec independence. The separatist movement is represented in the federal Parliament by the Bloc Quebecois and in Quebec by the provincial Parti Quebecois.

The Bloc Quebecois swept into Parlia-

ment in the 1993 election, winning 54 seats to make it the official federal opposition.

The Parti Quebecois took power from the Liberals in the French-speaking province last year, promising a referendum on separation sometime later this year.

Tomorrow's by-election has become a proxy for the upcoming referendum, with the tightness of the race mirroring the split in support for and against separation.

"It shows that in the pre-referendum period there is a polarisation. Things are becoming more black and white," Massicotte said.

A recent poll published in a French-language weekly in the district, *La Voix de l'Est* (Voice of the East), shows the Bloc Quebecois candidate Jean-Francois Bertrand with 33.8 percent of voter sup-

port. His father was once premier of the province.

Liberal candidate and former Quebec Bar Association president Denis Paradis had 31.0 percent backing in the poll.

The rest of the vote is shared by several small parties.

But most telling is the 23 percent who said they remained undecided, meaning the final vote could swing either way.

Political scientists said that a defeat for the Bloc Quebecois would break the momentum the separatists need before the Quebec referendum, which according to recent newspaper reports could be held as early as June.

In a 1980 referendum Quebecers voted 59.6 percent against starting the process toward independence from Canada. But failed attempts to reform Canada's constitution have kept support for sepa-

ration alive. The Bloc Quebecois also needs to win this by-election to fend off the Reform Party, another new protest party in Ottawa, that now has only one seat fewer than the Bloc and desperately wants to become the official opposition.

The three by-elections are the first electoral test for the federal Liberals under Prime Minister Jean Chretien since he and his party crushed the Conservative party in October 1993.

For the Liberals it is a chance to prove they can regain support among French-speakers in Quebec, outside of their English-speaking bastions in Montreal and the Ottawa region.

A victory for the Liberals would give them another well-known Quebec voice in Parliament supporting the cause of keeping Canada together. (Reuters)

## Abducted British 4-day-old found safe

BODELWYDDAN, Wales (AP) — A mother was reunited with her newborn baby yesterday a day after she disappeared from a hospital maternity ward, reports said.

Police had hunted the four-day-old baby girl kidnapped from the ward, apparently by a woman who befriended the child's mother.

Britain's Press Association, quoting unidentified sources at the hospital, later said the parents were reunited with the little girl at the hospital. The girl was safe and well, the report said.

Britain's second baby snatch in less than a year focused new attention on hospital security measures.

Police said the dark-haired

woman they believe took Lydia Owens Friday from Glan Clwyd General Hospital at Bodelwyddan in north Wales, was aged 30-40 and carried a large bag.

She approached the baby's mother, Christine Owens, at the door to the maternity ward at the end of the evening visiting hour at about 8 p.m. (2000 GMT), Det. Supt. Peter Ackley told a news conference Saturday.

"The woman engaged Mrs. Owens in general conversation and they went into the ward and visited Lydia's cot," said Ackley.

The two women had coffee and continued chatting about babies in a nearby room before the unknown woman left, he said.

## The mood of America: Clinton evokes dismay

DAVID BRISCOE  
WASHINGTON

AMERICANS usually have a love-hate relationship with their presidents — some love him, some hate him — but the dominant reaction to Bill Clinton seems to be dismay.

The Democratic president's image has taken a particular beating since Republicans took over the US Congress in the November election, and he can't seem to do much about it.

In just the last few days, Clinton failed in a much-criticized attempt to end the baseball strike; saw a bevy of controversies that plagued his presidential campaign dredged up in a new biography; and found himself embroiled in an unwelcome debate over abortion and over his competence in the nomination for surgeon general.

Clinton has strong supporters and so far is the only contender in sight for his party's 1996 nomination. But he is repeatedly depicted in news media as weak and ineffective, or, at best, contradictory.

Discussions of presidential weakness overshadowed discussions of the president's \$1.6 trillion federal budget, which he unveiled at the top of the week. And that annual exercise was shaping into yet another example of presidential incompetence as the Republican-controlled Congress began hacking away at his spending proposals.

Now more than ever, the president who was elected for his domestic agenda finds himself with more foreign successes than domestic. His achievements — restoring democratic rule to Haiti,

enticing North Korea away from nuclear weapons research and easing ancient enemies closer to Middle East peace — were not paying off at home.

Even one of his most aggressive and decisive acts as president, the decision to bypass Congress to bolster the Mexican peso, brought little lasting praise and has further isolated one of the strongest traditional Democratic constituencies — organized labor.

Despite the Mexican action, the perception that Americans view their president as a weakling cannot help but give him and perhaps the United States itself a softer image abroad.

Some of his foreign policy initiatives have prompted such concern. An example is last week's announcement of tough trade sanctions against China, which are being delayed for more negotiations and a trip to Beijing by Clinton's energy secretary.

Clinton probably missed his biggest chance for widespread public acclaim when he called in both sides of America's contentious six-month-old baseball strike for White House negotiations. He failed to get anything close to a settlement and turned the matter over to a reluctant Congress.

A more sure-footed president might not have put so much prestige on the line unless a settlement was imminent.

For three days last week, *The Washington Post* carried on its front pages installments of the latest Clinton biography, by Post staffer David Maraniss.

While the biography, *First in His Class*, exposes no new scandal, it trumpeted anew some of the old ones: his pre-presidential romances, his avoidance of military service, his financial involvements as governor of Arkansas.

Among the complexities of Clinton's character analyzed by Maraniss are his high intellect combined with a lack of discipline, his talent for building deep friendships while sometimes being grossly self-indulgent, and his great stamina combined with a tendency to put things off.

The latest damage to Clinton's image surrounds the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster Jr., an obstetrician and gynecologist, to be the nation's top medical officer.

Even Democratic Sen. Joseph Biden, a frequent ally, abandoned Clinton on that one, saying the handling of the nomination was "a political blunder in the extreme."

Clinton now is caught between the need to show toughness and the need to overcome his staff's failure to reveal fully the number of legal abortions Foster has performed in a 38-year medical career.

Adding to Clinton's discomfort is that the bungling of the nomination has thrust him once again into America's long-running, emotional, sometimes violent debate over abortion. And that's a debate no one is winning. (AP)

## Australia slammed as a haven for Nazi war criminals

News agencies  
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA's former chief war crimes investigator says government inaction has created a sanctuary for Nazi war criminals.

Robert Greenwood, who was quoted by *The Weekend Australian* newspaper yesterday as saying known ex-Nazis had settled here freely.

He accused the government of "gutless failure on the moral agenda" and of not wanting to jeopardize foreign trade opportunities.

He said the government betrayed scores of war crime victims by offering refuge to their killers.

Greenwood was head of Australia's Special Prosecutions Unit between 1987 and 1991.

During that time it located several alleged war criminals who had emigrated from Europe after World War II along with tens of thousands of innocent settlers.

He charged three elderly men. But none was prosecuted successfully. The unit was later disbanded.

Greenwood told *The Australian* he had warned the government about the imminent arrival of alleged Latvian war criminal Konrad Kalejs.

Kalejs was stripped of US citi-

zenship following allegations that he served with a Nazi-backed Latvian murder squad which killed 30,000 people, and deported to Australia in April last year.

He had originally emigrated to Australia after the war but left for the United States in 1959.

"This is pretty disgusting stuff when you think Australia is supposed to stand as a bastion against oppression," Greenwood was quoted as saying on the decision to admit Kalejs.

"We're supposed to share the ideals of the United States in its formative years — send me your persecuted, your downtrodden. Yet we're accepting people who are quite the opposite end of the scale."

Attorney General Michael Lavarch said last year Australia's war crimes unit had investigated Kalejs but had found there was insufficient evidence for prosecution.

An immigration judge in Chicago found Kalejs had served in Nazi-occupied Latvia as a company commander in the Latvian Auxiliary Police, a unit that murdered unarmed civilians.

## Study: US voters prepared to put up with wafflers

WASHINGTON — Note to Bill, Newt, Bob, Phil, Dan, Ross: Consistency on the issues may be overrated as a political plus with voters, new research suggests.

Most politicians live in fear of being labeled a "waffler" for shifting positions on political issues. But voters are more likely to vote for candidates they agree with, even if those candidates have changed their minds from past positions, according to a series of psychology studies by researchers at North Dakota State University.

The team based its conclusions on three studies on college students and one on state legislators. The findings appeared this month in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

"We suggest that what voters really want is a politician who shares their opinions," the North Dakota team concluded, noting also that Bill Clinton won the presidency in 1992 despite being called a "pander bear" by Democrat Paul Tsongas and a waffler by George Bush in a speech at a Waffle House restaurant.

"Our studies... simply fail to support the intuitive views of many voters and politicians alike that the average voter values, above all, the politician who 'sticks to his guns.'"

"Instead, the data support Machiavelli's admonition to politicians to adapt their message so it fits the views of the audience," they said. In his classic work, *The Prince*, the Renaissance Florentine statesman celebrated political expediency and craftiness.

In one experiment by the North Dakota researchers, 151 college students were given versions of a fictitious scenario about a political candidate who either stayed consistent or changed position on the issue of access to abortion. The students were then asked if they would vote for the candidate. Their answers depended more on whether they agreed with the candidate than on whether the candidate had switched positions. (Washington Post)

## LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

### LIBI Classic Concert

An additional concert in the LIBI Classic Concert series, sponsored by the Friends of LIBI Fund, in conjunction with the Israel Chamber Orchestra, was held last week at the Tel Aviv Museum.

The concert was conducted by Yuval Ben Ozar. Soloist Semiyon Krouchin performed Schumann's Piano Concerto.

Artistic direction was by Dorey Reiter-Soffer. The main offering of the evening was the Bachianas Brasileiras by Villa-Lobos, which was performed by Singer Shirli Hecht and Bat Dor dancers Robin Ross, of Australia, and Ya'acov Vertanov, a new immigrant from Russia, with music by four cellists of the Israel Chamber Orchestra and four cellists of the Chamber Orchestra of the IDF Education and Gadna Corps.



In the picture: (right to left) Members of the Friends of the LIBI Fund: Nili Armoni, MK Avigdor Kahalani, Dalia Kahalani, Gloria Armoni, Helen Sagl, Gari David and Ruhele Ziv. (Gil Pasternak, Barnahane)

All proceeds of the evening are devoted to LIBI Fund's educational activities.

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## Electronic 'labels' ease shop pricing

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

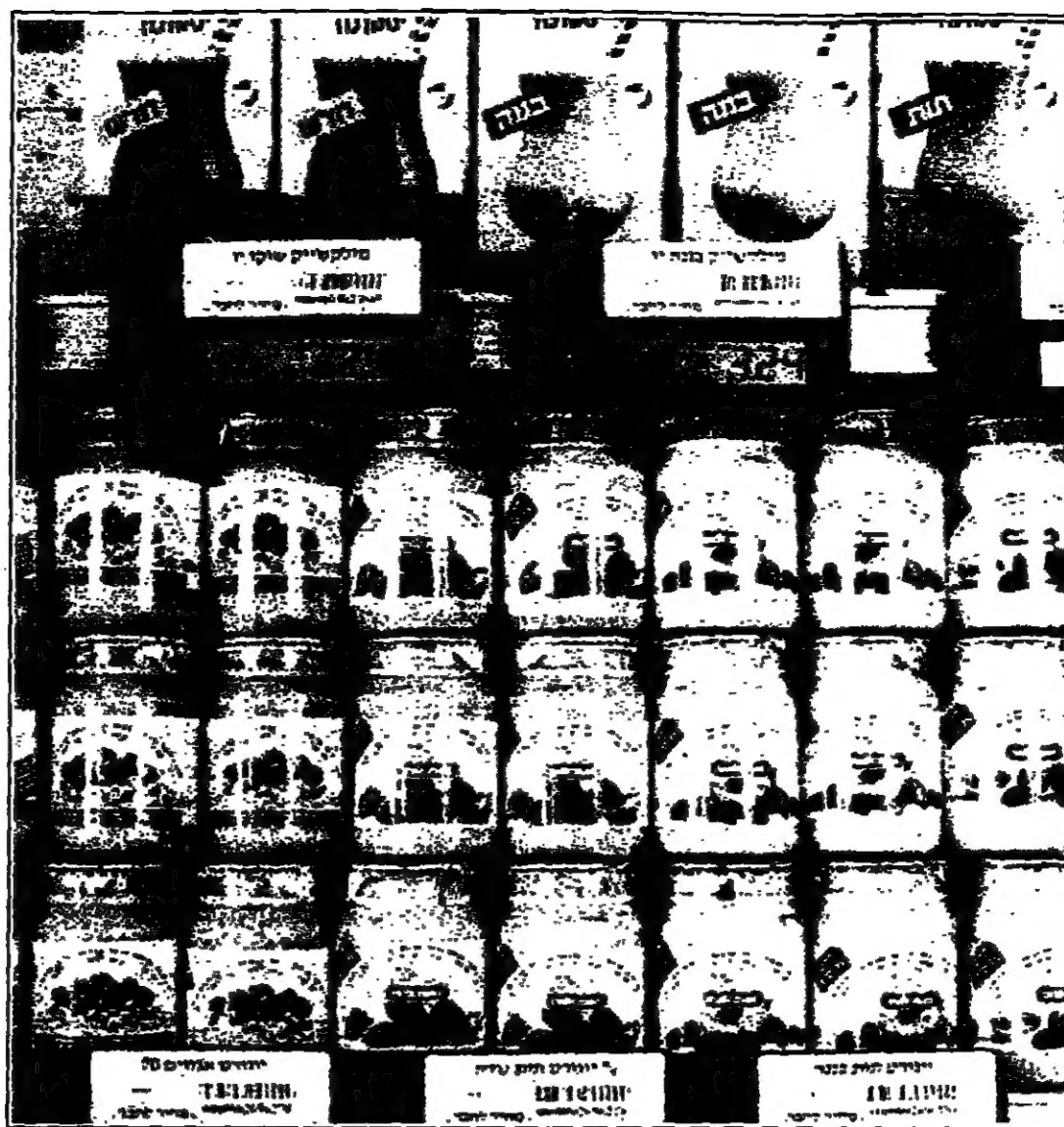
THERE needn't be 250 percent annual inflation to justify a supermarket's spending \$100,000 on electronic shelf labels (ESL). Even today's 15 percent inflation rate forces store personnel to regularly change prices upwards, and special sales can bring certain prices downwards for a few days or weeks.

A Bnei Brak company, El-Dat Communication Ltd., installs easy-to-read liquid crystal displays (LCD) — like those in your digital watch or alarm clock — next to each product in a supermarket or other shop. Using infrared transmitters attached to the ceiling, the system can make a total of 20,000 price changes in an hour. All the manager has to do is hit a few keys on a personal computer, using Windows software.

El-Dat, originally known as Moldat, was founded in 1988 by Israel Air Force veterans, whose experience was in the development of electronic-warfare and intelligence systems. The company started by developing advanced electronic systems for the defense industries that were installed in the world's most advanced fighter planes.

But in 1993, the company moved into the field of wireless communications adapted for the more mundane job of updating prices.

According to Uri Sela, El-Dat's vice president for sales and marketing, 9,000 ESLs have been installed during the past few months in Metro Cash and Carry



Liquid crystal displays let the supermarket make up to 20,000 price changes in an hour.

El-Dat's labels have no wires and may be safely secured to shelves. They can be removed by authorized personnel only with an appropriate key. "The stores have had no trouble with vandals," says Sela. "The labels are quite indestructible under ordinary use and last for up to seven years." There is no need for "line-of-sight" connection between the ceiling transmitters and the labels, and hanging signs don't interfere with the infrared.

"The ESLs can be completely custom designed for each store chain," Sela notes. "They may be graphically designed according to the needs and wishes of each store."

The system is also connected to the cashiers' point-of-sale computers, so prices for items at the checkout counter are the same as on the shelf. The ESLs automatically receive all price data directly from the store's computer, new prices that reach the store from the chain's management reach the ESLs without staffers having

to key in the data manually. In addition, says Sela, the computer tests the whole system periodically and issues alerts in case of trouble. Store managers can even lower prices on some items instantaneously for short-notice sales.

Sela notes that while supermarkets are the most natural customers for the technology, large hardware stores and other shops with large stocks are also expressing an interest in El-Dat systems.

## 'Keyhole surgery' repairs hernias

HEALTH SCAN

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

INGUINAL hernias can now be repaired using an inflated balloon and keyhole surgery instead of opening up the lower abdomen. But since it usually requires general anesthesia, the procedure is not for everyone.

The technique — the latest surgical fad in the US — is available at a number of local medical centers, including Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem, Laniado Hospital in Netanya and the private Herzliya Medical Center (HMC). It is said to cause almost no pain and allow immediate return to work. Another advantage is that a double hernia (on the two sides of the lower abdomen) can be fixed using the same tiny incisions.

In an inguinal hernia, a loop of intestine enters the inguinal canal, sometimes filling the entire scrotal sac. In recent years, instead of opening up the lower abdomen, surgeons have used laparoscopy, whereby small incisions are made to push through a tiny video camera and scalpel. This has been further refined, with the insertion of a balloon that is inflated to provide easier access to the hernial area without having to go into the upper abdominal region. A nylon mesh is then stapled like a bandage to permanently cover the tear in the membranes and strengthen the tissue; the deflated balloon is removed through an incision.

HMC urologists say patients need no painkillers and are up and about immediately after waking from surgery. They can go home and return to work — even lift weights — the next day.

Dr. Ya'akov Ullano, a Laniado surgeon who studied the technique in the US, says a general anesthetic is usually used because the balloon's pressure inside the abdomen would otherwise cause considerable discomfort, but a spinal anesthetic that allows patients to be conscious may be possible. Some patients complain about pain from the small incisions. Moreover, the procedure tends to be more expensive than conventional hernia repair because disposable equipment costs hundreds of dollars. "The stapler alone costs \$250," he says.

### RETINAS STRONG

DURING DELIVERY

Contrary to a long-standing myth, pregnant women with a predisposition to retinal detachment can undergo a normal, vaginal birth rather than a cesarean section, according to doctors from the departments of ophthalmology and obstetrics at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Members of the team, who recently presented their findings at local and foreign symposia, studied 10 women who had 19 deliveries in the past and during the research. They all either had a previous history of retinal detachment or were diagnosed as having retinal changes that predisposed them to detachment.

The women were followed from the third trimester of pregnancy through delivery and recovery. No changes in the retina were found, even though they delivered vaginally. The doctors concluded that asymptomatic retinal disorders need not be treated prenatally.

**NO SMOKES ON TELECARDS**  
Cigarette advertising will not appear on Bezeq's new advertising medium, the Telecard. The

magnetic phone cards have become portable billboards, and the first company to use them for promotion is a European soup manufacturer. Bezeq says it is ready to offer advertising space on its Telecards to any commercial firm, as long as its products do not offend the public.

The telecommunications company has already decided that tobacco products and nonkosher foods will not appear on its cards.

Meanwhile, bridge players will now enjoy clean air. The Israel Bridge Association — despite the fact that it is subsidized by tobacco giant Dubek — is banning smoking in the workplace initially contained a paragraph that defined halls where bridge is played as "sports facilities," where smoking is barred. But MKs found this funny and left it out. Now the association has taken on this commitment.

**OPTOMETRY UPGRADE**  
Some 40 students are expected to enroll in the new academic degree program in optometry at the Center for Optometric Studies in Tel Aviv.

The center, which operates in conjunction with Bar-Ilan University, received academic recognition from the Council for Higher Education recently, along with the Hadassah College of Technology in Jerusalem.

Bar-Ilan's faculty of life sciences will supervise the program. In addition, the University of Manchester has agreed to an exchange program whereby BSc graduates in optometry can pursue postgraduate studies in the world-renowned British school.

Some 15 professors in physiology, immunology, physics and cell biology will teach at the Tel Aviv center. The four-year program is to begin in September.

### LEFT-HANDED HEADACHE

Headaches are twice as common among left-handed individuals as among right-handed people, according to doctors at Kupat Holim Clalit's Lin Clinic in Haifa. The reason for this "discrimination" is not known. Between 6 and 9 percent of the population suffer from headaches resulting from unknown causes.

Dr. Yitzhak Bazak, a neurologist at the clinic, decided to help patients complaining of headaches whose cause could not be explained by an organic disease. After extensive interviews, patients were helped to avoid circumstances that resulted in headaches and to apply relaxation techniques. As a result, says Bazak, many were able to reduce their dependence on painkillers.

### BREAST EXAMS IN Bnei Brak

Awareness of the need for breast examinations for early detection of cancer is minimal among haredi women. The Macabi Health Fund has decided to change that by opening a special clinic in Bnei Brak for breast examinations.

Hundreds of Bnei Brak women recently attended a lecture by a Macabi doctor about breast cancer detection. The clinic, located at 34 Rehov Rabbi Akiva, is open twice a week.

After it was pointed out that haredi women are unlikely to go for such a checkup if a male doctor does the exam, Macabi decided that one of the two physicians on duty will be a woman.

## Moths are harder to get rid of than before

TELL ME WHY

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

I just noticed a few little holes in the knee of a new pair of jeans, which haven't even been washed yet but have been hanging in the closet for a few months. My wife's polyester dress also has a few holes. Is it possible that moths have an appetite for jeans, even though they are 100-percent cotton, or for synthetic polyester? I thought moths eat only wool. If so, how does one get rid of moths in a closet? David, Ashdod.

Dr. Carmela Shimony, a biologist at the Israel Fiber Institute of the Industry and Trade Ministry, answers:

Moths eat wool, but if a certain piece of clothing is a blend of wool and other fibers, they will eat those as well without digesting those that are not wool. Since jeans are 100-percent cotton, it is highly unlikely that moths would feed on them, or on a dress made of a completely synthetic fiber. Even if you haven't yet worn the jeans, the holes might have

been caused by rubbing against splinters or nails inside the closet. Holes may also develop from a chemical defect in the cloth, such as the use of a strong acid during manufacture. If the dress has been worn and washed many times, the cloth could have developed holes as a result.

Moths are less attracted to wool that is clean; they prefer cloth with organic substances on them such as food, dirt or perspiration. Moth balls are less effective in killing these pests than before; they have developed resistance.

Dry cleaning will get rid of moths and their eggs; spraying them with ordinary pest killers, such as those that kill ants, will also kill moths, but you have to re-spray every week or two to kill any larvae that emerge from the eggs, and then air them out.

Why are feces brown no matter what you eat (except bees, or when you're sick, or in new infants)? Jerrold, Haifa.

Dr. Warren (Zvi) Jacobson, head of the gastroenterology institute at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek

Hospital, replies:

The brown color of feces is due to a substance called stercobilin, which is produced in the intestinal tract from the bile secreted by the liver.

Although stercobilin makes feces brown, other factors influence its color. At a very early age, infants do not yet produce bile effectively; their almost-exclusive milk diet gives the stools a much lighter color. This can also occur in adults. Green stools are generally the result of rapid transport of the feces through the digestive system, as in diarrhea, which does not allow the bacteria completely to convert the bile products to stercobilin.

Blood, iron, bismuth and certain other substances can give a black color to the stool. Various food products can give other shades. A lack of bile passing from the liver to the intestine, such as in certain types of jaundice, causes a colorless, clay-like stool.

I grew rhubarb as a child in our garden. My parents were always careful to cut off the leaves, which

they said were poisonous, but we ate the stems. What is the poison, and how can it accumulate in only a certain part of a plant and not another? Talia, Jerusalem

Prof. Haim Rabinowitch, an expert in vegetable physiology and breeding at the Hebrew University's agriculture faculty in Rehovot, comments:

Rhubarb leaves contain large concentrations of oxalic acid, which in sufficient quantities is poisonous to humans and animals. Eating 300 grams of leaves could kill a cat. A human, who weighs about 14 times as much as a cat, would have to eat proportionately that much more of the leaves for it to be lethal. Large amounts of oxalic acid can, however, cause kidney stones to form.

The long stems contain much less than the leaves, but it is nevertheless recommended that when preparing rhubarb, one should throw away the cooking water. Alternatively, add 0.5 grams of calcium carbonate to each 100 grams of rhubarb stems to neutralize whatever oxalic acid is in the stems.

A number of plants contain

poisonous substances in one part and not in another; perhaps this is part of their defense mechanism against predators.

Long-time chemistry teacher Shlomo Etzioni of Kibbutz Tzora comments on the Hebrew University agriculture faculty chemist's explanation (January 15) on why arak turns white when water is added to it:

Organic compounds like the etheric oil in anise don't dissolve in water. Rather they are dispersed in it in the form of tiny droplets — like fat in milk. Such a dispersion is called an emulsion and is often opaque. This makes the arak turn cloudy.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, c/o Jerusalem Post Science & Technology Reporter Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem, or fax it to (02) 389527. Please include your first name and place of residence. Calls will not be accepted.

## TA University zoologists help local vultures keep on soaring

NEW WORLDS

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

A vulture's life is no picnic. Living only on carrion, the bird often goes without food for as long as 10 days and continues to fly long distances. And when it lands, it sometimes chooses a dangerous perch — power lines — and is electrocuted.

Tel Aviv University zoologists have used a thermal camera, radio transmitters and fake electricity poles to better understand Israeli vultures and help them survive. Some of the findings are unique.

Vultures are raised at the university's zoological garden, not only to increase their numbers but also to observe their behavior in the nest and in the air. Ofer Bahat, a doctoral student studying with Dr. Yitzhak Choshniak, investigated the vulture's expenditure of energy. He found that the bird of prey has an unstable food supply dependent on the availability of carrion. Sometimes it enjoys unlimited food, and at other times goes hungry for long periods.

The scientists tracked the birds from jeeps, attaching small radio transmitters to the backs of five vultures and following their flight. They found that even when the birds were hungry, they flew as energetically as when they were satiated.

Within a day of finding a dead cow or calf, the vulture eats its fill taking on a meal comprising up to 30 percent of its own weight.

The bird rests for about a day and then flies off until it finds another piece of meat.

The TAU researchers also found that the vultures' metabolism slows down by as much as 50 percent during rest periods, compared to meal times. At night, its energy only needs to drop to 40 percent of its optimum level, as its temperature falls from 40 to 36° Celsius.

Even while gliding, the vulture expends much energy because it must hold its wings up in a 2.7-meter wingspread. The researchers found that the vulture can spend 10 straight hours in flight. Lessons from these observations resulted in improvements in nature reserve feeding stations in Gamla (in the Golan) and Sde Boker (in the Negev).

An Inframatrix 760 infra-red thermal camera, made by the Elbit company, was used for the first time anywhere to study how much heat is released from the bird's body during flight. The zoologists found that the vulture's "cold" neck serves as a kind of radiator for heat loss. When temperatures are low, it reduces flow to the blood vessels in the neck, cutting heat loss. At rest at night, the bird sticks its neck into its feathers to keep it warm. When the temperature rises, blood flow increases, causing excess heat from its body to be released into the air.

Between 1982 and 1984, 43 vultures — a third of the native popu-



A vulture rests upon a dummy electric pole at Tel Aviv University, where zoologists are helping them to survive.

lation — were electrocuted in the Golan and Galilee. The birds caused serious damage to the electricity grid when their bodies did not fall from the wires, and the automatic restarting system did not kick in.

To find out the cause of the electrocutions, the researchers built dummy power poles and cables and trained their birds to land on them. They found that on takeoff and landing, their broad wingspread is liable to touch two cables — or a cable and a pole — simultaneously, causing the transfer of power between them and electrocuting the vultures.

With this information, gained through the use of video cameras, the scientists designed safer electricity poles. The Israel Electric Corporation has financed a pro-

ject to track by satellite the movement, anywhere in the world, of two vultures native to Israel. This project, at \$3,000 per eagle, is to be expanded to 10 birds and is expected to reduce the damage to the power grid.

### PLAYING IT BY EAR

Young children who don't agree to have their temperature taken seem not to mind EZ-Therm, a new thermometer that fits into the outer ear. The device, developed by the Israeli company S.A.A.T., is said to register an accurate body temperature in three seconds. It recently received approval of the US Food and Drug Administration for marketing there.

The NIS 300 device weighs 100 grams and works on batteries guaranteed for five years and

12,000 measurements. It also stores the last four temperature measurements in its memory.

### SHRINKING COMPUTER VALUE

The computer you buy today will — in three years — be worth only 2 percent of what you paid for it. This depressing news comes from the International Data Corporation (IDC) in the US, which studied the resale values of computer equipment. Anyone with an IBM-compatible XT from a decade ago, which cost a few thousand dollars, can get NIS 250 for it today, if he's lucky.

Many US companies prefer to lease computer equipment rather than buy it to reduce their long-term losses, IDC claims. Computer leasing has come to Israel too, and among the firms that have done so are Tadiran, the First International Bank, Visa and Israel Aircraft Industries.

### A CLOSER REMOTE IN YOUR CAR

A remote control similar to the stick that turns on lights and operates the windshield is being offered by Sony to car owners to operate their radio, tape recorder and compact disc more safely.

The device to change radio stations, CDs or tapes and modulate the volume, is installed on the base holding the steering wheel — so you can use it without taking your eyes off the road.

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ORIE DEVIR  
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## PA minimum, Israeli maximum

IF there is anyone in the Palestinian Authority leadership who can inspire confidence in times of tension and mutual recrimination, it is Nabil Shaath. A cultured, soft-spoken man who speaks fluent English, he radiates the kind of civility and reasonableness which can easily tempt one to believe that the New Middle East is truly around the corner.

While officially the role of PLO foreign minister belongs to the crude, hard-line Farouk Kaddumi who often identifies with enemies of the process, Yasser Arafat has been smart enough to use Shaath as his emissary to the world community, American Jewry, and Israel's negotiators. The chemistry between him and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Israel's former chief negotiator and now chief of the general staff, was legendary.

It is precisely because Shaath is considered the epitome of moderation and realism who eschews fanaticism, because - unlike Arafat - he would not dream of catering to Palestinian opinion by saying in public "we are all suicide bombers," and because as a sober pragmatist he represents the PLO "moderates," that what he says must be taken seriously. His recent interview in the London daily *The Independent* should therefore be considered must reading for anyone concerned about the peace process.

Perhaps the most discouraging aspect of the interview is that despite the agreement the PLO has signed with Israel in which it has pledged to shun violence, and despite Shaath's own repeated disavowal of terrorism, he threatens war unless all the Palestinian demands are met. It will be a blood-drenched confrontation, he warns, in which both sides will resort to brutal steps. He is even sure that Israeli intransigence will enable the Islamic militants to recruit a larger number of suicide bombers.

Such threats can only reinforce the impression that for all the public saving of Hamas and Islamic Jihad for trying "to kill the peace process," the PLO is not unhappy about the existence of Palestinian "bad guys" who can be used as a threat.

(Nor is Shaath alone in making such threats. The head of the Palestinian observer delegation at the UN in Geneva used similar language on the UN's annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Comparing Palestinians resisting Israel to Europeans resisting the Nazis, he said that the Palestinians even now will use "all means necessary to resist the occupation." Peace would not be achieved he concluded, until a Palestinian state is established "with holy Jerusalem as its capital.")

Even more striking than these threats is the

nature of Shaath's ultimatums. Disregarding the agreement's embryonic state and palpable precariousness, he presents demands which far exceed anything imagined by the architects of the Oslo agreement.

These include, of course, the establishment of a Palestinian state from which every last Jewish resident would have to be removed and the division of Jerusalem into two capitals. But these two conditions are implicit in every "final status" scenario, and considered an inevitable consequence of the Oslo accord.

What Shaath introduces which is seldom mentioned in the public debate over the Oslo agreement is the Palestinian refugee problem. Mordechai Abir, who teaches Islamic and Middle Eastern studies at Hebrew University, aptly summarized the problem in a recent Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs study: "Any Palestinian state in the West Bank - landlocked, poor and surrounded by Israel and Jordan - will still face the desperation and pressure of two or two and a half million Palestinians in the diaspora, living among Arab 'brethren' who are not willing to integrate them or even to like them. Most of them wish to preserve their Palestinian identity and 'right of return'."

Stating specifically what he expects, Shaath says Israel will have to "take back" 100,000 Palestinian refugees and resettle them in the Galilee. And the final status talks will have to address the return of both the 1967 and the 1948 refugees. Even Israel's most dedicated doves agree that such "resettlement" will spell the end of the Jewish state.

It would be a grave error to view these demands merely as opening gambits in the negotiations. These are not, after all, the PLO's maximum positions. The real maximum positions have been spelled out by Sheikh Akramah Sabri, Arafat's appointee for Mufti of Jerusalem, who recently told his congregation at Al Akse, "Israel is doomed to destruction."

What these demands represent is merely what the Palestinians expect to be satisfied before a settlement can be reached, "or else." And it may be salutary for the politicians who have been quick to deride the opposition's alternatives to the Oslo agreement as "something no Palestinians will accept" to ponder Shaath's simple message. It is that even the conditions offered by Israel's most dovish government in history are not something the present Palestinian leadership will accept.

Israel may have to conclude that what the Palestinians consider the minimum they can accept far exceeds the maximum Israel can give.



LEH 695

## A plague of media porn

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

ON the back of *Yediot Aharonot's* reprint of a charming Meir Shalev story for children about Abraham the Patriarch and Sarah the Matriarch, the tabloid gives its listing of "escort" (i.e. call-girl) services. The next page carries the paper's daily listing of 056 sex lines ("Orgies... a nymphomaniac eagerly awaits you"... "Come and let a real stunner help you realize your dreams on a waterbed plus blue movies").

Parents who want to tear out the Bible story for their youngsters, in an attempt to avoid the paper's daily offering of barely-clothed women, will think again when they see the prostitute listings on the flip side. Of course, they could always go as far as gluing the story to a piece of cardboard.

But this odd placing isn't a one-time occurrence. Children's stories printed by the country's largest paper are often found back-to-back with pornographic listings.

Israel's version of *TV Guide*, known as *Phai Plus* and sold to cable TV audiences in the tens of thousands, has a special children's program listing cartoons and other kids' shows. Within flipping distance are ads for sex shops and the inescapable 056 numbers.

When a reader complained, the publisher replied that he "wasn't allowed to refuse ads." Perhaps he should get advice from the lawyers of *The Jerusalem Post* and *Ha'aretz*, which refuse to print pornographic ads.

*Ma'ariv* recently boasted that it was providing "patronage" to local stage shows by the Chippendales - the female counterpart of the for-women-only beefcake Chippendales from the US - in which women strip for men-only audiences.

The paper's women's supplement *Signon* - read by many men and children as well - recently

had a cover photo of home-grown international model Michaela Berko. Topless (modestly covering her upper half with her elbows), Berko sports a red-and-black devil's tattoo on her upper arm. The two top buttons of her jeans are undone, and nothing is visible underneath. (Role-mod-

el) Michaela also has a lit cigarette stuck in her mouth.

ONE DOESN'T have to be a chief rabbi, or even a prude, to object to the growing sexualization and degradation of our two largest newspapers.

One may merely be a secular feminist who objects to seeing women treated as objects coyly inviting harassment, or even rape. Or one may be a man who values women not only for their measurements but also for their IQ.

What message are these mass-circulation papers trying to impart to their young and not-so-young readers? Why would a woman editor with a minimum of self-respect - as I suppose *Signon* editor Liat Timor would at the very least characterize herself - go along with such a policy?

Since the two tabloids' circulation war began, readers have been subjected not only to lottery campaigns and articles by the papers accusing each other of hiring wiretappers, but to a daily, full-color diet of virtually-naked women.

This nudity is, of course, "clothed" with legitimacy - a story about the latest Paris fashions, or topless Scandinavian sunbathers on the beach in Eilat. Maybe the papers' next marketing campaign will include the free distribution, together with the paper, of the pornographic *Pogim* that are now all the rage in the US.

It came as no surprise that in this atmosphere of degradation of women, a senior IDF officer, in a speech to high school children, felt free to refer to men as "warriors" and women as "whores." In an atmosphere perpetuated, even cultivated, by the tabloids, it isn't surprising that the boys in the class just laughed at the colonel's words, while a number of girls walked out in protest.

Of course newspapers have to make money, especially in this post-Hitler era without political subsidies for affiliated party organs. But publishers and journalists like to give a semblance at least of serving the public interest as well.

The tabloids' current editorial and advertising policies are not serving that interest.

With all its modernization, Israeli society remains more conservative and traditional than American society. There is much less AIDS, less school violence, a smaller generation gap, and more respect for teachers. Nevertheless, we are importing, with several years' delay, some of the worst aspects of America's societal maladies.

If the publishers don't want to clean up their papers, the least they could do is publish an optional insert featuring the topless women, the 056 numbers and the call-girl listings. Then readers could decide whether they want to expose themselves - and their children - to it.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

## Heavy hearts

TEDDY PREUSS

WE didn't need the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz to remind us of the death camps. Their horror has been with us every day since we first learned of their existence.

The Holocaust is an event no German must forget and no Jew can forget, wrote a German journalist after visiting Yad Vashem. He was right. Every Jew fears that if such a nightmare could happen once, it could happen again. But to non-Jews, what happened was so awful that it cannot recur. That's why we need to remind them of Auschwitz.

But Jews are forever recalling the signs posted along our people's Via Dolorosa. We take pains to remind ourselves of all the disasters that have befallen us since the giving of the Torah. And that is essential for an understanding of Jewish history.

But must we fast to commemorate the murder of Gedalya Ben-Ahikam, or the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem, or the destruction of the two Temples? And even the salvation of the Jews of Persia in the time of King Ahasuerus - a joyful event by any

Israelis are overdosing on memories of disaster

account - is observed only after the Fast of Esther.

We mustn't let history be forgotten; but why turn the signposts of disaster into semi-official milestones?

Wasn't Masada enough of a historical memory, without sending Armored Corps recruits to swear their oath of allegiance at that place of suicide? And now they are sworn in at Latrun, where we sustained our worst defeat in the War of Independence.

Why? Certainly we should hold memorial ceremonies for fallen soldiers; but at their sites, we shouldn't have ceremonies marking Israel's strength.

And of course we must recall the Holocaust. But must we live and breathe it all the time? Unlike the destruction of Jerusalem, the expulsion from Spain, and other national disasters which might get forgotten, the Shoah is carved into all our hearts.

Daily reminders won't only diminish its impact; they will inflict new wounds on the soul of every Jew.

THE EXTENT to which the Holocaust is alive in our midst was brought home to us on the day of the Beit Lid massacre. Many compared it with the killings at Auschwitz.

In 1967, former foreign minister Abba Eban referred to the Green Line as the "Auschwitz borders." And recently, right-wing MKs have used the image of Auschwitz in talking about the Oslo agreement and the evacuation of Gaza.

Comparisons like these not only dwarf the unique and unprecedented tragedy of the Holocaust, but they also pour salt into an open wound.

The frequent organized visits to Auschwitz by young Israelis have the same effect. This kind of focus causes them to relive a catastrophe that Jews will never forget anyway.

A psychiatrist who constantly reminded the children he was treating that they are orphans, or concentrated on dredging up fearful past episodes wouldn't be doing much to help them. He would do better to paint a plausible future for his patients, who will remember the horrors without the psychiatrist thrusting them into his soul.

That is what we are doing by picking at wounds which haven't healed and never will - even without pilgrimages to Auschwitz or radio and TV programs on the second and third generations of survivors.

The memory of the Holocaust will continue to haunt us, awake or dreaming, even after centuries. To paraphrase Winston Churchill: Even if the Jewish people should last thousands of years, this will remain their most horrible moment.

The writer is a senior journalist with the daily *Dayar*.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MARRIAGE IN ISRAEL

Sir, - A blacklist kept in the vault of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, with closely-guarded copies held by the Chief Rabbinate, consigns some to the fate of being denied a basic human right - the right to marry.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs tries to downplay the number of those "disqualified from marriage," putting the number at 4,000. The state comptroller's report points to a number at least twice as large, and since it was published four years ago, a significant number of names of new immigrants have been added to the secret blacklist.

The trampling of human rights in the name of religious laws accepted only by the hard-Orthodox establishment places Israel at the head of a small group of countries in the world in which the personal status of a couple is determined by religious law alone. Only in Israel, however, does an antiquated law deny individuals the right to marry. Even in Catholic Italy, seat of papacy, civil marriage is allowed. Here, if a marriage does take place involving someone on the "disqualified for marriage" list, there exists the possibility that the rabbinic might arbitrarily annul the marriage at any time. The parties are obliged to divorce against their will. Among this distinguished company are men and women defined by Halacha as *manzerim*. A male thought to be of priestly descent is not allowed to marry a divorcee or a widow. New immigrants who were married and divorced under civil law and wish to start a new family life in Israel are shocked to discover the magnitude of the difficulties heaped in their path by the religious authorities.

Men who have lived with women who were in the midst of divorce proceedings have brought them into the same category of disqualification. Sadly, the blacklist is not kept up to date, and among those listed are some who have been approved by the rabbinic for marriage and others whose inclusion was based on questionable sources of information, false accusation, gossip, speculation and plain rumor.

Hemdat, the Council for Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture in

Israel, and the religious and secular institutions affiliated with it, offer alternatives to Orthodox marriage ceremonies within the limit of existing law. The preferable solution to the problem is legislation that would not only confirm the right of those denied marriage by the rabbinic to enter into a normal marital relationship, but would recognize the right of each and every citizen to be married in keeping with his or her beliefs, conscience and religious conviction, in a religious or civil ceremony. But even if such legislation is slow in coming, a couple can even now be married by a Masorti (Conservative) or Progressive (Reform) rabbi in a Jewish marriage ceremony. The law in Israel recognizes such marriages only if they are accompanied with a civil marriage abroad. Civil marriages contracted outside Israel are recognized here for purposes of registration in the Interior Ministry's population registry.

Individuals in a free society deserve the right to enter into marriage as they wish, liberated from the monopoly of the Orthodox rabbinic in matters of personal status and religion.

PROF. HILLEL SHUVAL,  
Chairperson,  
HEMDAT

Jerusalem.

### FUNDAMENTALIST TERROR

Sir, - Islamic fundamentalist terror is not a "Zionist state" problem. The bombing of the Jewish Center in Buenos Aires in the summer of 1994 which claimed the life of close to 100 people demonstrated that the terrorists don't discriminate between "Zionists" and Jews.

Nor is it a Jewish problem. The bombing of the World Trade Center in December 1993 demonstrated that the Western world is as much a target of Islamic fundamentalist terror as any bus in Tel Aviv. It is an international problem. When will the world deal with it as such?

ADELA GERTNER  
North York, Ontario, Canada.

### INADEQUATE EXPLANATION

Sir, - Rabbi Lamm's lame explanation of why homosexual interest groups continue to be condoned and supported at Cardozo Law School, as described in your January 20 story, is woefully inadequate and unconvincing. Difficult compromises are one thing; selling out and abandoning the very principles upon which Yeshiva University rests are quite another.

I realize, certainly, the gravity of the consequences which YU would otherwise face. Spitting into the wind, so to speak, of the conditions which the United States government established as qualifying for financial aid to institutions of higher learning makes little sense. If, that is, you accept homosexuality as a fully natural mode of behavior and an acceptable form of human activity. Which, as Rabbi Lamm himself points out, Torah-based Judaism does not.

The complexity of the situation, however, is enormous and extends to matters beyond hypocrisy and opportunism. It embraces, in fact, the very question of whether or not Yeshiva University may continue to enjoy the regard and reputation it has merited - so deservedly - for many decades. And forces very painful consideration of the fact that university officials are quicker in responding to the tune of Congressional money managers than to a somewhat higher authority.

I would be curious to know how the Christian universities along America's Bible Belt fare on this matter. Surely, these schools are enjoying all the benefits available to purely secular institutions. And yet, I cannot visualize these places, purporting to represent the ideals of Christian theology, condoning or tolerating even the remotest form of homosexual expression on their campuses.

Perhaps what Rabbi Lamm should be searching for is not an intellectual compromise but, rather, a practical loophole, the kind which enables you to have your cake and eat it too.

BARRY NEWMAN  
Givat Shimon.

## POSTSCRIPTS

JEAN GLOVER'S heart problem was not helped when her dog Roxanne picked up an unexploded hand grenade and began playing with it in a park.

"She was rolling on her back, dropping it and picking it up, coming up to me and pretending to give it to me and then running

off again," said Glover of Auckland, New Zealand.

She had taken her rotweiler for a walk when she got home from work. When Roxanne picked up what looked like a ball and began playing with it, Glover thought nothing of it.

But when Roxanne brought

the ball up to her, obviously in search of a game, Glover realized to her horror the dog's jaws were clenching not a ball, but a hand grenade without a pin.

The more she tried to persuade Roxanne to part with the grenade, the more she thought it was a game, Glover, 40, said.

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Graffiti is a big problem in Paris - especially when the perpetrator seems to be the size of a skyscraper. Actually, it's a display outside the city's Postal Museum to encourage people to write. (AP)



# AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, February 12, 1995

## Accused terrorist freed

Israeli legal system considered among the fairest in the world

Despite criticism, the Israeli courts continue to adjudicate difficult cases with professionalism and objectivity.

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Several years ago, I was asked by the United States Attorney's office in Brooklyn to testify as an expert witness for the prosecution — not my usual role! The case involved a request by Israel to extradite a Palestinian accused of a terrorist attack against a civilian bus en route to Jerusalem, in which the bus driver was machine-gunned to death and several passengers injured. Mahmoud Atta was accused of being the trigger man. The accusation was based on the testimony of two accomplices who told the Israeli police that they had been recruited into terrorist activities by Atta and that Atta had fired the shots while one of the accomplices threw a Molotov cocktail.

Atta, who had moved to the United States following the shootings, resisted the extradition request, arguing that he would never receive a fair trial in Israel, that he could be tortured into confessing and that he would be exposed to inhumane prison conditions. Since I had written several articles about the Israeli legal system, based on first-hand observation, I was asked to testify as an expert concerning these allegations against Israel. I testified that the Israeli legal system was essentially comparable to our own legal system. Atta's lawyer, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, cross-examined me at length about the manner by which the Israeli legal system treats accused terrorists and argued to the court that Atta's human rights would be denied by his extradition to Israel. The judge disagreed and ordered him extradited.

Atta was tried in Israel and maintained his innocence. He was represented by a prominent Jewish lawyer closely associated with Palestinian political and legal causes. Atta was convicted of the shootings as well as several other terrorist acts and sentenced to life imprisonment. On appeal, the Supreme Court of Israel reversed the conviction.

It concluded that the testimony of his alleged accomplices — which they subsequently recanted — was insufficient to satisfy the standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The high court also reversed the additional convictions on the ground that those charges were not included in the extradition request. Despite the evidence that Atta was extensively involved in terrorist activities, he was set free.

So much for the allegations that an accused Palestinian terrorist cannot receive a fair trial in Israel. Atta ought to count his blessings that he was not tried by an Islamic court, a PLO court, or even an Egyptian or Jordanian court. Israel has one of the fairest legal systems in the world, even when it comes to trying suspected terrorists. The Israeli legal system is not without its flaws, like every other legal system. But the Supreme Court's reversal of the Atta conviction, following on the heels of its reversal of the conviction of John Demjanjuk — the alleged "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka — makes it clear that accusations of

**Israeli courts have insisted on applying existing Israeli law to Palestinian terrorists in the same manner as they apply it to Jews accused of serious crime.**

the kind leveled against Israel by Atta and others is politically motivated. Indeed, given a choice to argue an appeal on behalf of a convicted criminal defendant before the current U.S. Supreme Court or the Israeli Supreme Court, I would not hesitate to select the latter.

In recent months, Israeli men, women and children have been exposed to increasingly vicious acts of terrorism. The friends and families of some victims have demanded the death penalty for terrorists and have accused the courts of coddling criminals. Sounds familiar! But the Israeli courts have resisted these calls and have insisted on applying existing Israeli law to Palestinian terrorists in the same manner as they

apply it to Jews accused of serious crime. The situation in the occupied territories is, of

**Yet the Israeli government continues to be chastised throughout the world, even as it takes considerable risks for peace.**

course, different, since they are still under military jurisdiction and military justice is never as sensitive to due process as is civilian justice. But even the military courts of the occupied territories are subject to review by the Israeli Supreme Court. And even in the occupied territories, Arabs enjoy more rights than they do under any Arab government in the world today.

Yet the Israeli government continues to be chastised throughout the world, even as it takes considerable risks for peace. By treating Israel and its enemies "even-handedly," the world fails to recognize the important distinction between a flawed democracy and imperfect dictatorships. The most dangerous example of this false symmetry was the inclusion of Yasser Arafat as a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize while the blood of his innocent civilians was still not dry. In the end, terrorism, fanaticism, and bigotry may yet prevail over peace, compromise, and tolerance. But it will not be the fault of the Israeli legal system, which continues to adjudicate difficult cases in a spirit of professionalism, objectivity, and fairness, as demonstrated in the Atta case.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are "The Advocate's Devil" (Warner Books) and "The Abuse Excuse" (Little, Brown & Company).

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## Term limits put GOP at war with its roots

The term limits movement is sparking debate among the members of both Houses.

BY ROBERT NOVAK

In Jan. 24, Sen. Hank Brown of Colorado sought to avert a shipwreck for the Republican Party and congressional term limits by introducing this bill: "Each state may prescribe the number of terms a person may be elected or appointed to the Senate or House of Representatives."

These 22 words are designed to end a confrontation between Republicans and the term-limits movement that is damaging both. No constitutional amendment today can win the necessary two-thirds majority in both the House and the Senate. Even before a defeat, Republican members are accused of betrayal and hypocrisy. At the same time, they face the prospect that the Supreme Court may soon rule that congressional term limits set by states are unconstitutional.

The court may determine that the power of Congress to regulate its elections, set forth in Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution, is being usurped. Brown's bill would give congressional sanction to term limits without amending the Constitution. There are ample precedents for Congress' changing how it is elected, starting with the establishment of single-member House districts in 1847.

The term-limits movement marched beside the National Rifle Association and the Christian Coalition last year as potent outsiders building a Republican majority in Congress. Even then, bad blood flowed through the veins of the alliance. U.S. Term Limits, the principal activist organization, insisted on a six-year limit in the House. GOP leaders want no fewer than 12 years.

But differences go deeper than that. Outside activists believe the Republicans have never been really committed to term limits but

**"Each state may prescribe the number of terms a person may be elected or appointed to the Senate or House of Representatives."**

used the issue only as a campaign device.

The tension peaked Jan. 25 when Rep. Bill McCollum of Florida, the lead House Republican on term limits, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee. When Sen. Brown asked whether he "would find it attractive" to "pre-empt the states from passing different limits," McCollum declared that "we ought to have uniformity. It's much better."

McCollum made himself perfectly clear: "I would like to pre-empt state laws." Thus, the McCollum amendment not only sets 12 years as the limit but would wipe out shorter terms decreed by voters in 22 states.

The Term Limits Leadership Council, based in Charlotte, N.C., has asked 44 co-sponsors of the McCollum proposal to drop support for McCollum. These co-sponsors had signed a 1994 campaign pledge that "I will oppose any effort by the U.S. Congress to alter the term-limit laws enacted by voters."

McCollum testified that "it would be silly for any state to vote itself a limit on its members less than what other people are having for their limits." That's the orthodox Capitol Hill mindset. The notion that term-limited California members of Congress would suffer in seniority compared to unlimited Mississippi members ignores the reality that strict seniority standards are in atrophy and would die under the Brown bill.

Republican strategist William Kristol sees grave danger for his party. "Voting against the right of the citizens of your state to enact terms," says an internal memo from Kristol's office, "is a 'Washington knows best' vote that no prudent politician will want to carry into his or her 1996 re-election campaign, a la former Speaker Tom Foley."

### NEWS BRIEF:

Betting is strong on Capitol Hill that President Clinton will ask Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, the Senate's longtime defense leader, to become secretary of state before the 1996 election in order to shore up Clinton's national security credentials and fortify his weak southern base.

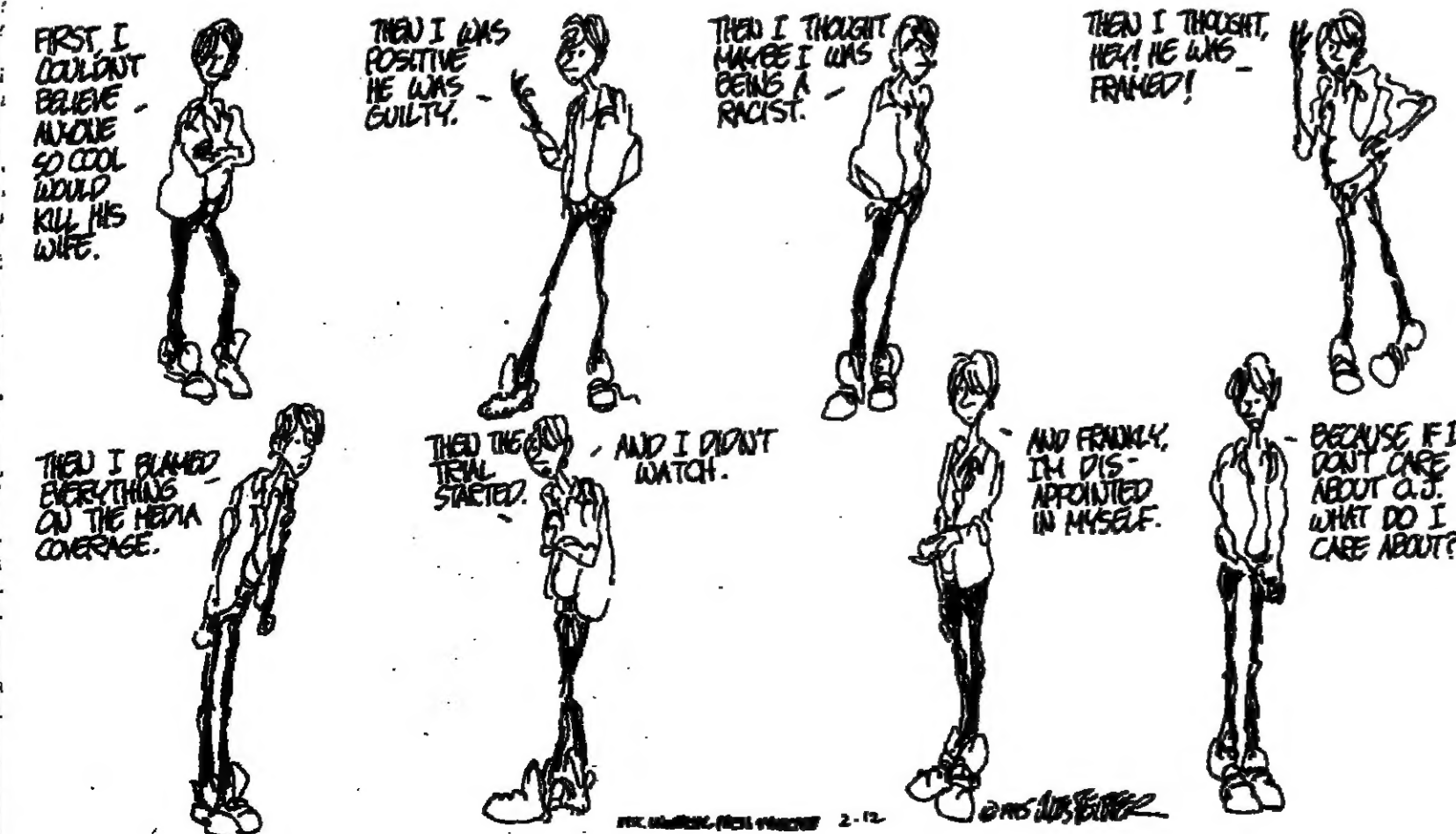
Nunn keeps mum, but close friends believe the Georgian is unlikely to run for a fifth Senate term in 1996. They say Nunn might accept even though he was not one of Clinton's early presidential backers.

Clinton recently told Secretary of State Warren Christopher that he wanted him in the job indefinitely, ending rampant rumors that Christopher was headed for an early exit. But the president carefully said nothing about Christopher staying on through the whole first term, which ends in January 1997.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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# EDITORIAL CARTOONS



## Newt vs. Big Bird

BY ROBERT WRIGHT

Newt Gingrich, in his campaign to kill the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, invokes the standard argument against public television: narrowcasting. Cable TV, by producing nutritious yet commercially viable fare, has rendered subsidized television obsolete. The Discovery Channel brings us science, Arts and Entertainment brings us culture — so why can't PBS, too, survive in the marketplace? "Arts and Entertainment is not up here lobbying" for government handouts, Gingrich notes acidly.

On the day I'm writing this column, the schedule for Arts and Entertainment, beginning at 7 a.m., runs as follows: "Classroom," "Lou Grant," "Columbo," "Columbo," "Police Story," "Rockford Files," "McCloud," "Banacek," "Lou Grant," "Police Story." That gets us to 7 p.m., which brings "Rockford Files," "Biography: Brigitte Bardot," "Movie: Deceived by Flight," "Law and Order." Then, at midnight: "Biography: Brigitte Bardot,"

shows that were created with subsidies from the British or American governments. Just look at what happens with genres where cheap reruns won't work — like a nightly newscast. If PBS is obsolete, then why has the private sector produced nothing even remotely resembling "The McNeil-Lehrer NewsHour," a national asset that by itself would justify a sizable chunk of the measly \$285 million that CPB gets from Washington? (That's for PBS and NPR.)

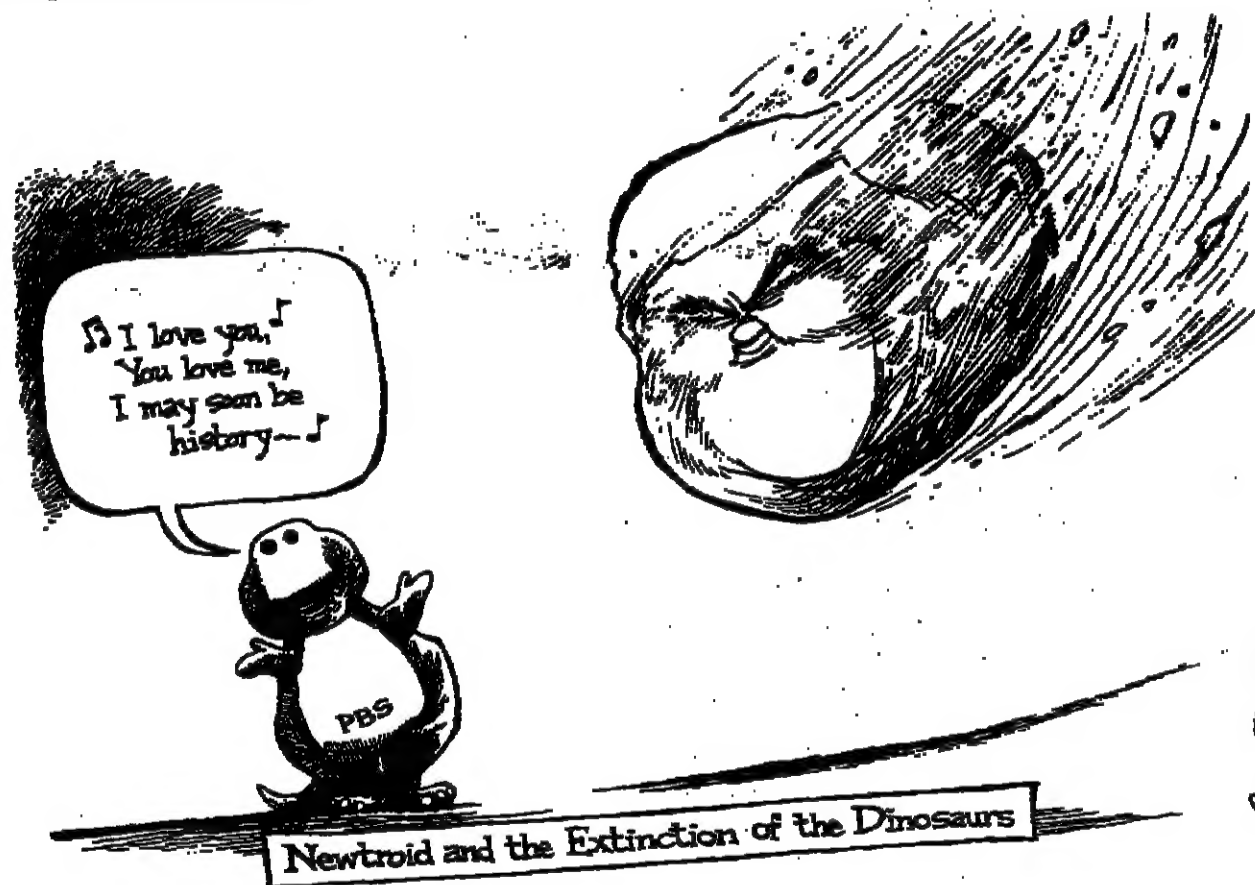
On the children's programming front, PBS's competition comes in two forms. First, there's trash, such as Fox's "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers." Then there are shows — on Nickelodeon, for example — that, while no intellectual match for Big Bird, are fairly educational and harmless. Unfortunately, this benign fare is often sandwiched between commercials for junk cereals, Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (the toys, not the show), and assorted plastic weaponry. PBS remains the only channel in front of which it's entirely safe to park your child.

You'd think that a man who frets about the moral values inculcated in our young, about educating Americans for a "knowledge

— and it's moving in that direction. Does it waste money? Presumably. Will the private sector eventually fill its niche? Quite possibly. But to act as if the market has already done that is to exhibit an enthusiasm for capitalism and for technology wholly unfettered by contact with reality — in short, to be Gingrich.

For much of America, the question of how nearly narrowcasting approximates television. For their parents, the case for public broadcasting has grown unambiguously stronger, as the major networks, under pressure from cable and from Fox, have gotten sleazier. In a poll commissioned by PBS, half of the respondents said public television is more important than ever, and about 10 percent said it was less important than before.

For a man who considers himself the vox populi, Gingrich was remarkably slow to fathom public sentiment toward PBS. He started out assuming that a routine incitement of class resentment would carry the day. PBS, he said two weeks ago, is a "sandbox for elites, a plaything for 'rich, upper-class people' who produce 'biased television.'" Then the PBS poll came out, saying that some 80 percent of



"Movie: Deceived by Flight," "Law and Order." And so on: all culture all the time — without government help!

Granted, some cable channels, such as Bravo and The Learning Channel, are less cheesy than

Cable TV, by producing nutritious yet commercially viable fare, has rendered subsidized television obsolete. The Discovery Channel brings us science, Arts and Entertainment brings us culture — so why can't PBS, too, survive in the marketplace? "

A&E. But they, too, generate almost no new programming. Their staple is reruns, often of

society," would not casually imperil the only safe educational haven for children in all of television. But for Gingrich to admit that PBS is the only such haven would mean admitting that technology and free markets, his twin cure-all for America, brought us much of what he seeks to cure. Television, by serving as surrogate parent, has helped disrupt the intergenerational transmission of values, including "family values." And the market-driven narrower casting that Gingrich celebrates won't help. Dozens of mutant MTVs, I boldly predict, will not restore this nation's moral fiber.

Narrower casting also deepens America's political and cultural balkanization. Mightn't the case for subsidizing nationally unifying media actually grow stronger as technological fragmentation proceeds apace? If the McNeil-Lehrer News Hour provides a nationwide forum for ideologically diverse policy wonks, and if the Cookie Monster is a lingua franca for black and white children, aren't these effects to be cherished? There are plenty of good arguments about PBS. Should it capture more of the profit from Barney dolls, Ken Burns books, and so on? Yes

Americans oppose cuts in funding. Gingrich reflexively started railing about how "a small group of elitists" is "running around the country using taxpayers' money to lobby." Then a less suspect poll, sponsored by CNN, found 76 percent of Americans favor at least some continued funding for public broadcasting. Gingrich, meanwhile, was cooling down. His plan to "zero out" CPB was "not fixed in concrete," he said.

Round one goes to Barney. Stay tuned.

(Robert Wright is a senior editor of The New Republic, in which this article first appeared.)

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

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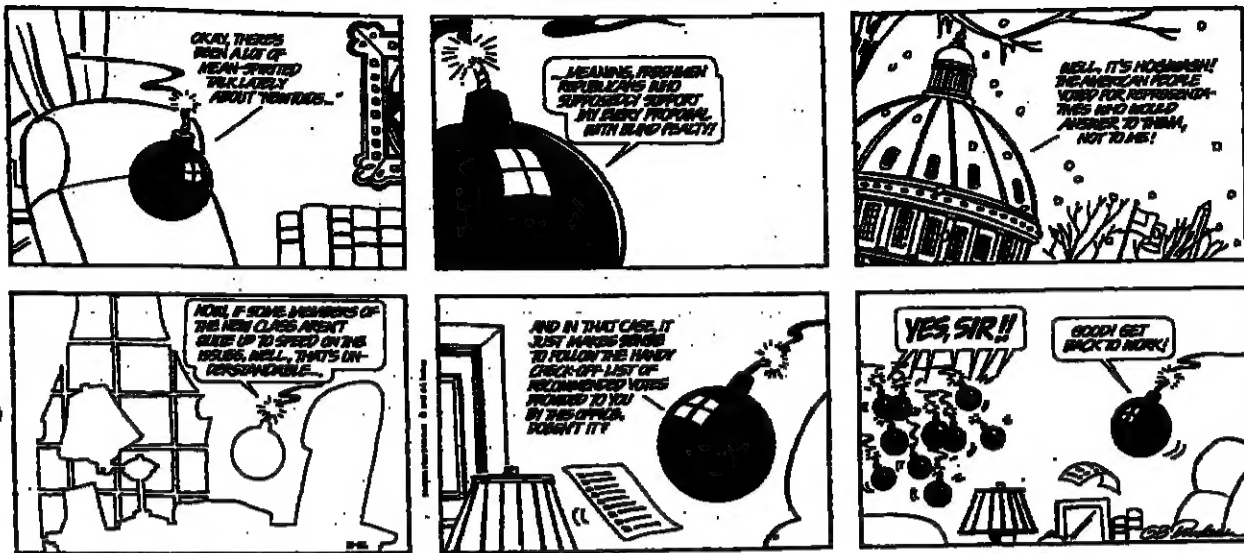
CHICAGO  
SUN-TIMES  
FEATURES  
SYNDICATE



# SUNDAY COMICS

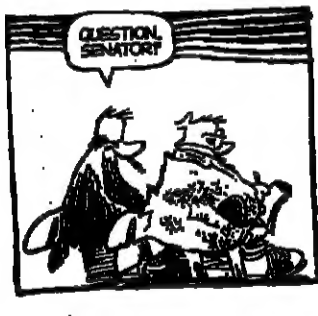
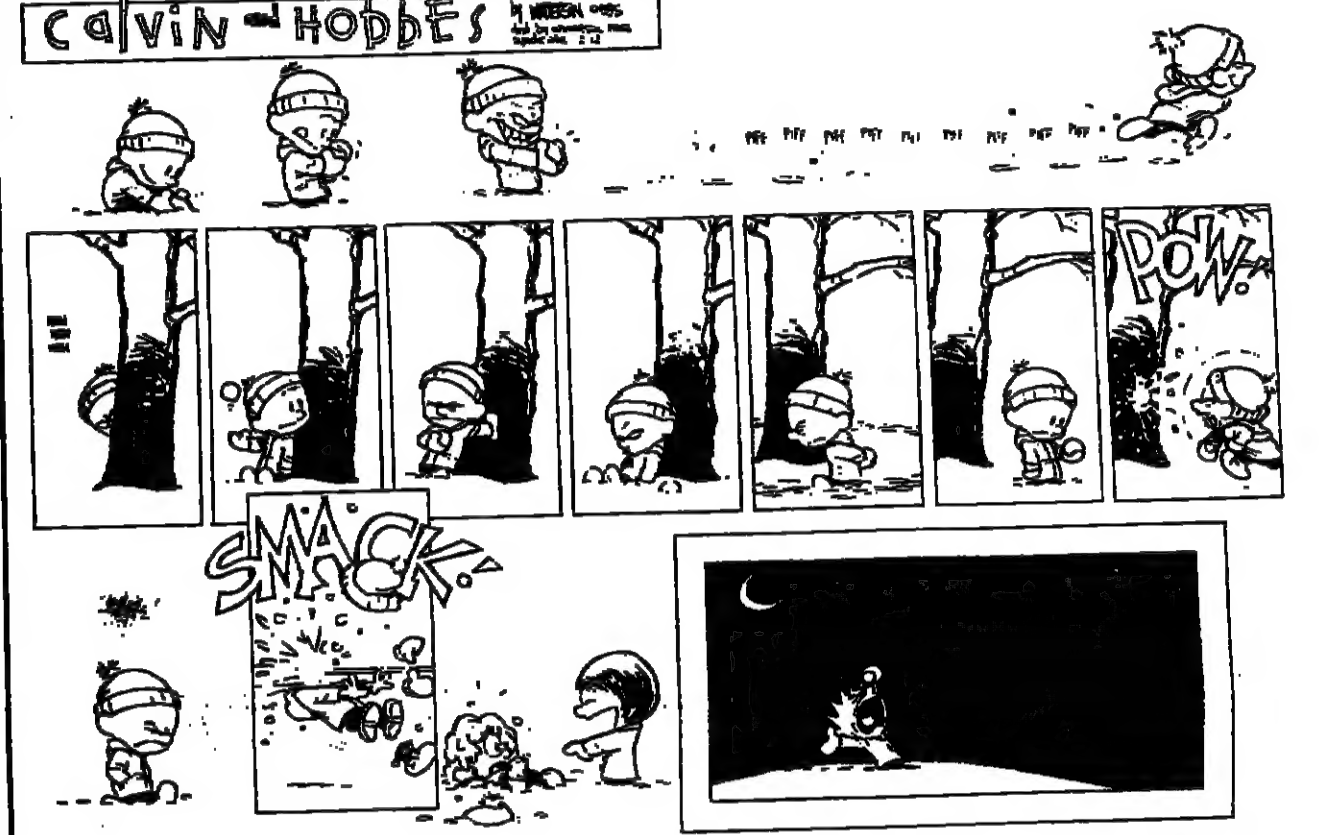
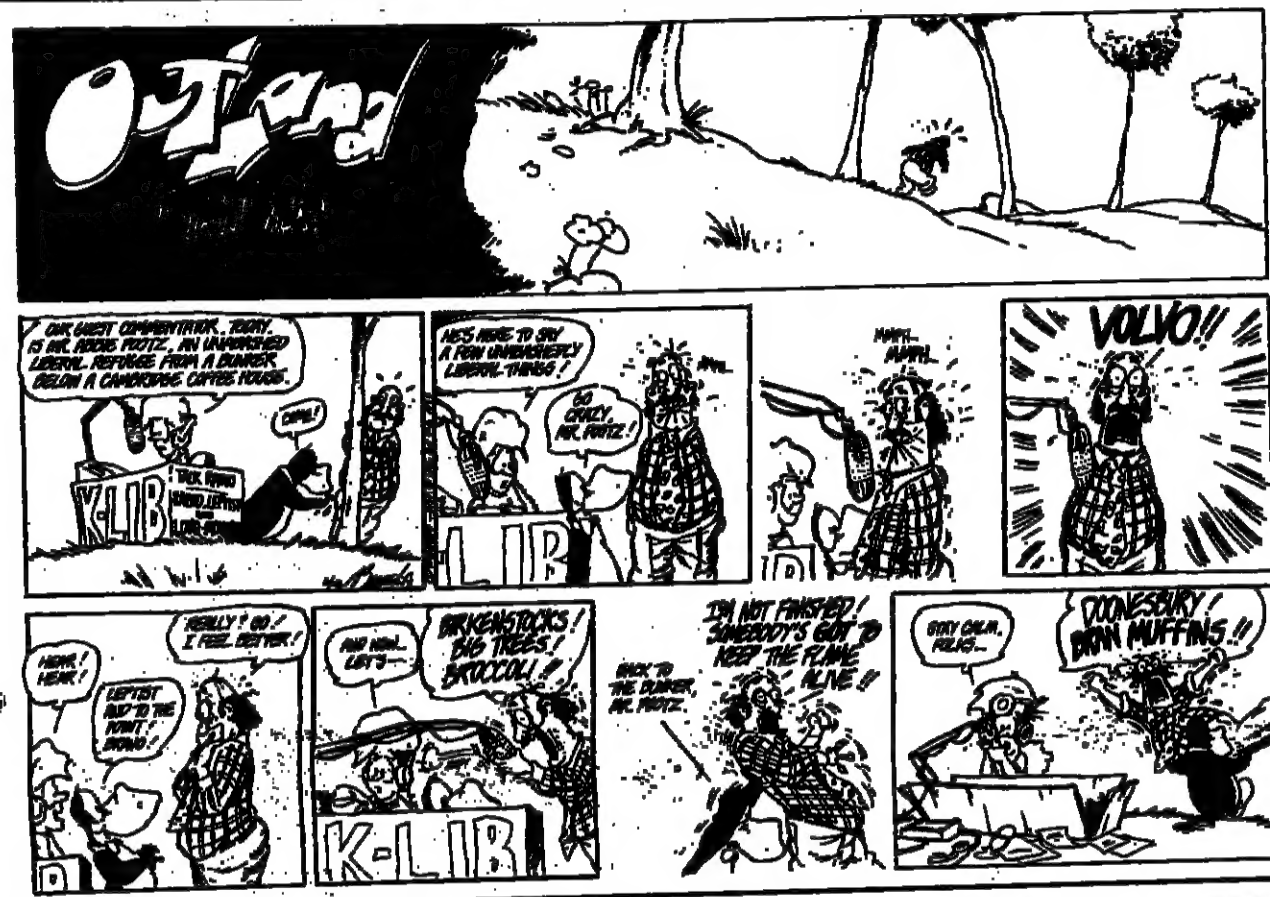
## Doonesbury

G.B. TRUDEAU



## PEANUTS

by SCHULZ



## TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

### ACROSS

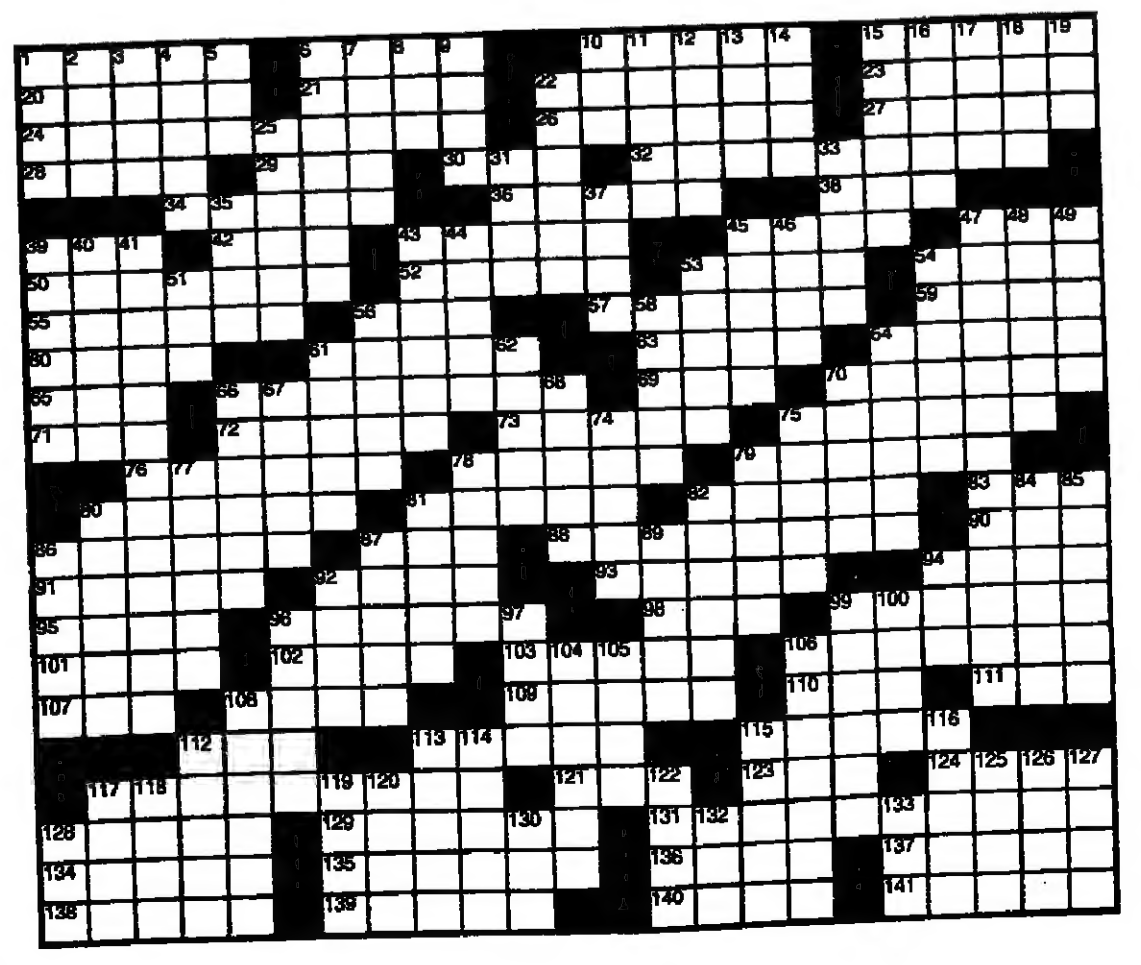
- 1 Hot sauce
- 6 Actor Estrada
- 10 Type of wave
- 15 Philadelphia's purchase
- 20 New York city
- 21 — Lisa
- 22 Conditional release
- 23 Law's partner
- 24 Disposition along
- 26 Aviator Earhart
- 27 English novelist Charles —
- 28 Bone, pret.
- 29 Soften or Jiban
- 30 Hockey's Bobby —
- 32 Pasta cathedral
- 34 Move off-course
- 36 Widow
- 38 Insect egg
- 39 Guy/ral on the beat
- 42 Cereal grain
- 43 Peltah
- 45 Lack
- 47 Actor Beatty
- 50 Topped with ice cream
- 52 Actress Verdugo
- 53 Riddle
- 54 — Loughlin of "Full House"
- 55 Pittsburgh player
- 56 Andie's org.
- 57 Fry
- 58 Vapor, pret.
- 60 Currier's partner
- 61 Ford or Close
- 63 Invitation abbr.
- 64 Guiltier
- 65 John Filer's dad
- 66 Foreigner
- 69 Hwe resident
- 70 Calm
- 71 Rainbow shape
- 72 Maria
- 73 Ploer part
- 75 Create
- 76 Printing boo-boo

### DOWN

- 1 New York district
- 2 Woe is me!
- 3 Pre-Easter period
- 4 Land — alive
- 5 One, no matter which
- 6 Spring forth
- 7 — Cox of "Sweet Justice"
- 8 Pen filler
- 9 Knockout slang
- 10 Highland hat
- 11 "Good Night, —"
- 12 Anguish
- 13 Landlaid
- 14 Shakespearean king
- 15 Filthy
- 16 Pick up the tab
- 17 Eve's companion
- 18 Ancient Persian
- 19 Belore, pret.
- 22 Clergy member
- 23 Thanksgiving event
- 31 Wander
- 32 Adversary
- 33 Horn sound
- 37 Ian's neighbor
- 38 Per —, apiece
- 40 — "Twist"
- 41 Beyond companion
- 43 Moon goddess
- 44 Linguine
- 45 Chetoph
- 46 Lawman Wyatt —
- 51 Holiday: suit
- 53 Swiss city
- 54 Actress Piper —
- 56 Shopping center
- 58 Relating to a city
- 61 Fireplace part
- 62 Radio's neighbor
- 64 Prying tool
- 68 Type of test
- 69 Hepburn's frequent

### ACROSS

- 68 Summary
- 70 Brown shade
- 74 Of sounds
- 75 Gave medicine to
- 77 Tell a story
- 78 Delivered senator
- 79 Jaunty cap
- 80 Salon treatment
- 81 VIP
- 82 Street
- 84 Spanish ex-ruler
- 85 Praised highly
- 86 Israel — Meir
- 87 Type of seal
- 88 Orange type
- 92 Cagle
- 94 Before, to a post
- 96 Hog sound
- 97 Miami's county
- 98 "Gone Under Fire" or "Home Improvement"
- 100 Appeal
- 104 Crude hut
- 105 Challenge
- 106 Italian port
- 108 Medieval ruler's employee
- 112 Star of the wedding
- 113 Cornmeal
- 115 On one's toes
- 116 Twang
- 117 Gambling game
- 118 Object of devotion
- 119 Stopped walk
- 120 Length times width
- 122 — Katt of the comics
- 125 Ticket part
- 126 Story
- 127 Nebraska Indian
- 128 — Awe
- 130 "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
- 132 Actor Holbrook
- 133 WWII agency





# Welfare reform plan viewed as Clintonesque

BY FRED BARNES

The White House summit on welfare reform on Jan. 28 was disjointed, meandering and long — in a word,

Clintonesque. As usual, both Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore stayed to the bitter end. The president asked question after question and Republicans did most of the answering, notably Rep. Clay Shaw of Florida, the GOP leader on welfare reform. At the close, Clinton said consensus had been reached on the need for state flexibility on welfare and for national standards for child support. Then, he noted that Shaw was already moving a welfare reform bill through the House. So he anointed Shaw point man on the issue, urging everyone to cooperate with him. "The ball's in Clay Shaw's court," the president said.

Clinton is a president without a party. He latched onto Shaw, a conservative Republican, because no Democrat has stepped forward as Clinton's champion on welfare reform, or on most other issues. Shaw was amazed. House Republican leaders were just as thunderstruck when Shaw told them two days later about the session with the president. Democrats at the summit, including House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt and Sen. Teddy Kennedy, raised no objection. Most of them hadn't liked Clinton's own welfare reform bill, which was sent to Congress last year. Democratic moder-

ates, there's no echo. For sure, Democrats didn't provide one after his State of the Union address on Jan. 24. It was Republicans who complimented the speech for its conservative tack. Jay Leno said the address should have been followed by a Democratic rebuttal.

The State of the Union did nothing to wash away the residue of the 1994 elections. Democrats blame Clinton for causing the party disastrous losses. They think he's responsible for reducing them to minority status. Clinton and his aides believe, correctly, that congressional Democrats are in denial, refusing to recognize their own role in the party's defeat. If only they had reformed Congress, they might still run the place, says a senior Clinton adviser. In any case, the estrangement is palpable. The White House used to send representatives to House Democratic caucuses, whip meetings and the daily message meeting. Now White House officials show up infrequently. "There's not much coordination," says a House Democrat.

Events have made relations rockier. Gephardt upstaged Clinton in December by announcing his plan for a tax cut two days before the president went on national TV to unveil his own, "middle-class bill of rights." Another source of friction was the White House decision not to name Rep. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey as Democratic national chairman. Some Democrats insisted the White House, especially Gore, was fearful of having an ally of Gephardt in the job, Gephardt being a potential challenger for the 1996 Democratic presidential nomination.

days lobbying House members. They made virtually no headway. Earlier, Republicans had complained that Gephardt's negotiators on the guarantee legislation, Reps. Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Alan Mollohan of West Virginia, had done nothing to win votes. Even after Gingrich warned that Republicans would abandon Clinton if a sizable number of Democrats didn't endorse the bailout, practically no Democrats came forward. Nor did they after Clinton's plea for support in the State of the Union.

On taxes and health care, Clinton has more backing among Republicans on Capitol Hill than Democrats. Gephardt wants a cut in taxes for those earning less than \$75,000. He doesn't favor singling out children for a tax credit, as Clinton and Republicans do. And he doesn't care for Clinton's scheme of making college tuition tax deductible. On health care, Gingrich and Dole instantly accepted Clinton's call in the State of the Union for "meaningful insurance reform." And why not? This has been their goal all along. Democrats? They've been silent. Democratic leaders haven't decided whether they like Clinton's "step-by-step" approach to health care reform or want to stick with comprehensive reform, as Clinton sought in vain in 1994. Boosting the minimum wage is probably the only bit of Democratic dogma on which Clinton and congressional Democrats will join forces against Republicans.

But that's later this year. For now, Clinton is adrift in Washington and off his game. Normally he's a political charmer, but his

## Bias revealed in slip of the tongue

BY ANDREW SULLIVAN

What if the words uttered by the House Majority Leader, Dick Armey, in his famous slip of the tongue recently, had been "Barney Kike"? Would the affair have lasted a couple of news cycles and received minor billing four days later in a Washington Post editorial? Would Newt Gingrich have felt it OK to say nothing about the incident?

We raise this parallel not because we think verbal bigotry should disqualify someone from public office (or should be legally sanctioned in any way), but because they reveal an interesting truth about the current acceptability of various prejudices. It's still essentially fine in most of America to refer to homosexual men as "fags" (and lesbians as "dykes"), while it is not essentially fine to use the terms "kikes" and "niggers." Richard Armey's defense that he did not use the term "fag" in this context, that he was conflating the words "Frank" and "harangue," is, to put it mildly, unconvincing. No, he did not, as *The New York Times* suggested, "intentionally" say those words. The utterance was a gaffe, which, as followers of Michael Kinsley know, occurs precisely when someone in Washington tells the truth. When Armey thinks of Frank, he thinks "fag." Most of the time politicians manage to avoid saying what they think, but every so often, they don't. This time, as on many previous occasions, Armey didn't.

Of course, Armey's defense would be more persuasive if he had a record of toleration for homosexuals. But — guess what? — in the past three Congresses, Armey has voted for every anti-homosexual law or amendment that has come up; and he has voted against every leg-

islative initiative that could conceivably be said to further the equality or dignity of gay Americans. No, these things shouldn't be a litmus test; but they are oddly revealing.

In the 101st Congress, Armey was one of only 47 members who voted against George Bush's Hate Crime Statistics Act, which allowed the government merely to record violence against homosexuals (Gingrich, who's no bigot on these matters, voted for it). Armey voted not to block an amendment that would have required states to report the names of people who are HIV-positive; and he voted to exclude people with AIDS from the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the 102nd Congress, he voted to stop groups that boycotted the Boy Scouts of America (because the Scouts won't hire homosexuals) from receiving government funds. In the 103rd Congress, Armey voted to codify the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy against gay military personnel; and he won't sign a voluntary statement saying his own office doesn't discriminate against homosexuals. In all these actions, he can seek no legitimate refuge behind arguments about states' rights, or free speech, or public health. His record places him in a select group of around 10 die-hard members. No one in the House has a more anti-gay record.

The simple truth is, Richard Armey has a thing about homosexuals. He believes they are depraved human beings who engage in immoral behavior, which should be stopped or discouraged. Why will he not admit this? He thinks homosexuals should be hunted down and discharged from the military, subjected to mandatory testing if they contract a virus and actively discriminated against in the workplace and many voluntary organizations. Why on earth wouldn't such a person use the term "fag"? It would at least render his rhetoric consistent with his beliefs.

Armey's furious self-exoneration, on the floor of the House and in national newspapers, was perhaps the saddest part of the entire exercise. He does not even have the courage of his own convictions. It is as if somewhere deep in his heart he knows that what he believes is shameful, which is why he rejects so adamantly the suggestion that he believes it. But he does believe it. And he legislates it. Armey and his cohorts have asked us to judge them not by their words but by their actions. Sorry, Dick, but you lose either way.

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(DEMOCRATIC) RUSSIAN ROULETTE.

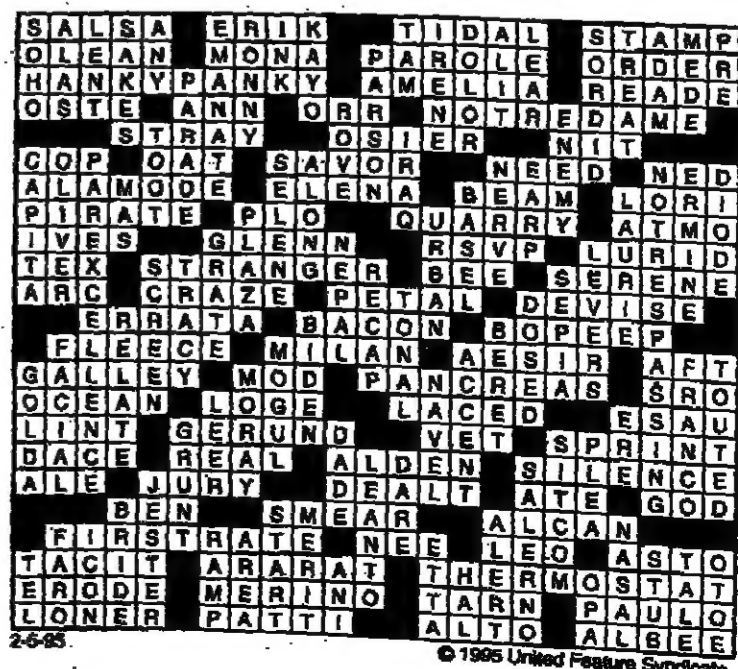
Even more than welfare reform, the proposed \$40 billion loan guarantee to Mexico revealed Clinton's minimal influence on congressional Democrats. Clinton got Gephardt and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle to sign on, along with Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole. But that was the extent of the Democratic effort. Gephardt's assistant, House Democratic Whip David Bonior, noisily opposed the bailout. Hearing the loan guarantee was probably doomed in the Senate, Gephardt never went to the trouble of conducting a vote count among House Democrats. Gingrich did considerably more, despite the absence of Republican sympathy for the bailout. He spoke out in favor of it and was prepared to pressure House Republicans to vote for it — until Clinton let him off the hook on Jan. 31 by using executive authority to stabilize the Mexican peso.

Clinton's decision to jettison the loan guarantee came after he and his aides spent several

geniality dissolved when he addressed the Alfalfa Club dinner on Jan. 28. Alfalfa speeches are supposed to be funny, not serious. Clinton knew this, having attended the dinner in 1994. Still, he was serious. Former Secretary of State James Baker had said his competition in speaking would be Clinton. "And Mr. President, I don't think it's fair to compare your State of the Union speech with Chinese water torture. Most people can't sleep through Chinese water torture," Clinton took umbrage. He said it wasn't surprising that Baker didn't like the State of the Union speech. It was about "real problems and real people." Real Democrats wandered over to Baker afterward to commiserate.

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# 'Very Israeli' photo wins grand prize in US

ON CAMERA

DAVID BRAUNER

DEBBIE Zimelman from Jerusalem was the grand prize-winner in *Popular Photography's* Great 1994 Picture Contest. Her winning picture, published in the January '95 issue of the American magazine, shows a nursery school in her neighbor's living room. It bested some 60,000 entries from 10,000 contestants worldwide.

Zimelman, a third-year photography student at Jerusalem's Hadassah College of Technology, had never participated in a competition. When she entered the contest last summer, she deliberated whether to spend the money on the postage.

"Shocked" that she won, she frankly admits that she can't understand why.

She calls her winning picture "very Israeli," and believes that the American judges were impressed by the "concentrated space" in the photo, taken as part of a class assignment. Zimelman entered five of her "best pictures," rather than attempting to second-guess the judges.

The top-prize photo came from the "family" category. Two other Israelis also won Honorable Mentions in the "photojournalism" and "computer" categories.

AN IRONIC postscript to the story is that *Popular Photography* could not readily find their grand prize-winner. Just when its editors were seeking to inform the 76 winners, Zimelman and her husband Eliot were visiting the US. After the editors got no response from several attempts by post and telephone to reach Zimelman at home, they resorted to a masterful piece of detective work. They began "a global chase" on the premise that "many Israelis are trans-

planted New Yorkers, [so] why not contact local Zimelmans for any leads?"

The hunch paid off. The trail, which led through a number of family members, got hot when the investigators found Zimelman's mother in Potomac, Maryland. The search ended in the nick of time in Portland, Oregon, where the Zimelman couple were visiting a friend.

The grand prize is a 6-day photo cruise to the Bahamas for two, including the New York flight.

Appropos of Zimelman's success, there are a few things to say about photographic competitions in general. A contest, whether local or international, is an excellent incentive to take pictures. Most competitions are aimed at amateurs and many foreign magazines run monthly contests.

When entering a competition, be sure to read the rules carefully and follow them precisely. Often there are limitations like age, subject matter, number of entries; technical information is often required so take notes; and, usually, photos must be of a certain size. Before sealing the envelope, double-check that everything - photos, entry form, explanations - is included.

The UN Environmental Program (UNEP) and Canon are sponsoring a contest entitled "Focus on Your World" to spotlight the world's environment. The stated theme is: "The photographs should reflect the planet, its people and the environment, in all its diversity." Professionals and amateurs of every age and nationality are invited to participate. There's a special category for children, defined "as a person who on 1/1/94 was under the age of 16 years."



Debbie Zimelman's grand prize-winning photo in 'Popular Photography's' Great 1994 Picture Contest.

The grand prizes are \$20,000 in the professional category and \$10,000 and \$1,000 in the amateur and children's categories, respectively. In all, over \$53,700 and camera gear will be divided among 77 winners, not to mention free trips to New York for the Oct. 1995 prize-giving ceremony. A summary of the rules: Each contestant may send in

no more than three pictures, either color or black-and-white prints or slides, photographed since 1/1/94. Prints must be sized from 20x20 cm. to 20x25 cm. in the professional category, and from 12x16.5 cm. to 20x25 cm. in the amateur and children's categories. All entries must adhere to the official rules and be accompanied by an official entry form. No

photos will be returned.

The winners will be exhibited worldwide and stored in the UNEP library. The deadline is April 30, 1995; no entries will be accepted after then.

For an official entry form with complete details, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to "The World of Photography and Video" Magazine, Soko-

lov Street, Holon 58330; or call 03-882542. Entries from Israel may be sent to UNEP Photo Competition, SMI (Overseas) Ltd., P.O. Box 119, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 4QT, UK.

Why not give it a shot? You've got nothing to lose. Debbie Zimelman now says about entering competitions: "It was worth the cost of a stamp."

Pets are healthier than going to 'gan'

HEADS 'N' TAILS

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

WE get a lot of letters from people about pets and children. They ask, "Can my child be infected by a disease from animals?"

The simple answer is yes. Some animals may, under certain conditions transmit diseases to humans. But proper care of the animal and proper instruction of the child make it almost impossible.

We are dealing with dogs and cats, the most common household pets.

Here it is clear that the careful and considerate owner will be sure that the pet is vaccinated against rabies, that it is free of such intestinal parasites as worms and flukes, and free of such external parasites as fleas and ticks.

It is your responsibility to make sure your pet receives this care, with the help of your veterinarian.

Be careful what kinds of house pets you give to which child. Don't give pet rodents that may carry leptospirosis, or pet turtles that may carry salmonella bacteria, to children who are too young to wash their hands after handling their pets.

This includes mice, gerbils, turtles and even hedgehogs. In any case, very small children prefer pets they can handle to birds or turtles.

Leave these exotic creatures to interested older children.

In general, proper sanitation is a very important part of animal care. Though it's rare, pets can cause infections in humans. However, the greatest danger of infection and exposure to disease your child faces is elsewhere: in kindergarten, school and extracurricular activities.

In the long run, pets do not pose a problem if they are clean and well kept.

From a health point of view, dogs, cats and farm animals are usually the best choices for children.

If your child or grandchild really wants a pet, let him or her enjoy it, while you keep in mind that, compared with health hazards we all face, the pet poses practically none at all.

## 'Davar' was socialist but aimed at wide readership

THERE AND THEN

SRAYA SHAPIRO

THE impending sale of *Davar* to private investors is another blow to the "ideological" daily press in Israel.

*Davar* was the brainchild of Berl Katznelson, the influential ideologist of the Labor movement in Palestine at the turn of the century. Berl suggested the creation of a daily newspaper when the Histadrut was founded, in 1920. The idea was formally adopted three years later, but it was only on June 1, 1925, that the first issue of *Davar*, *Eretz Yisrael Workers' Newspaper*, rolled off the press.

The event is recalled by Dr. Menahem Gilboa in the current issue of *Kesher*, a periodical published by the Institute for Research of the Jewish Press at Tel Aviv University.

The first issue of *Davar* - a four-page paper - indicated Katznelson's concept for the daily. It contained not only the editor's message to the readers, but a

short story, a poem, greetings from the Socialist International, and personal reflections by veteran Labor activists.

Though the aim of the Jewish worker was to do manual work, Berl explained, "a link between work and culture was essential to assure the 'new Jewish existence'."

Clearly, Gilboa remarks, it was a recipe to appeal to the nonproletarian origin of the bulk of *Davar* readers.

"Let's adhere to the dictum of Moshe Hess: Freedom of discussion, Unity in action," Katznelson concluded in his manifesto. David Zakai, the first secretary-general of the Histadrut who joined *Davar* from its first issue, was even more explicit: "Only if *Davar* allows freedom of comment will it be worthy of the Histadrut."

As proof of this claim, *Davar* contained in its first issue a student letter by Uri Zvi Greenberg, a red-haired bard who was singing the glory of the conquest of the Land.

"Young people did not come here to be 'just proletarians,'" he said. "A workers' publication should be a vehicle for active rebellion."



Berl Katznelson focused on the connection between 'work and culture.'

A few weeks later Greenberg clashed with Moshe Beilinson, the leader writer who commended the Histadrut for helping Arab

workers striking for higher pay. Greenberg contended that the Histadrut should care for Jewish causes only.

A four-page literary supplement (which began appearing three months later, when a new press was installed) appealed to intellectuals.

Hugo Bergmann, the philosopher, wrote on Spinoza; philologist Yitzhak Epstein examined the use of Hebrew in daily life; Avraham Shlonsky, an impermanent young poet recently arrived from Russia, contributed a poem called "Prayer."

Like other papers, *Davar* allotted much space to speeches. Just two weeks after the first issue, the paper printed extensive accounts of speeches delivered at a rally in which Yishuv leaders insisted that British high commissioner Herbert Samuel should not be replaced.

The paper criticized Nahum Sokolow, head of the Zionist organization, for allowing the British government to appoint a new high commissioner without consulting the Jewish Agency.

Long before the first issue ap-

peared, the editor found correspondents among kibbutz and other Yishuv members. He wanted a steady flow of information on economic matters, internal relations, agricultural progress and setbacks, and new projects.

From the kibbutzim, he wanted information on relations with neighbors, kitchen issues, children's homes, cultural life. Katznelson insisted he wanted correspondents "to express their views and observations."

But he was also worried about technical matters. "We need a rotary press," he wrote to Dov Hoz, who was then in Europe. And could one obtain a typewriter, free, if possible? He did not mind being taken for a schnorrer, he noted.

Unexpectedly, *Davar* was an immediate success. Within a month it was printing 4,500 copies daily - more than the combined circulation of the non-aligned *Ha'aretz* and the revisionist-backed *Doar Hayom*.

"We have 3,200 subscribers, and advertisements have covered a third of our running expenses," Berl wrote to Michael Assaf.

But Katznelson was no businessman, and nor were any of the editors who succeeded him. None of *Davar's* editors meddled with the administrative side of the newspaper, as did the editors of other successful journalistic ventures - Gershon Agonsky of *The Palestine Post*, Azriel Carlbach of *Ma'ariv*, and Gershom Schocken of *Ha'aretz*.

But Katznelson's lack of business skills did not matter, as long as the Histadrut covered the paper's losses.

## Scientists wonder where words live in your brain

NEUROSCIENTISTS may have identified the part of the brain where we recognize and understand a word.

Unlike many solid organs, the brain is partitioned by function. Different areas perform different work. There are often astounding differences in function between tiny volumes of brain matter that are only millimeters apart.

Gregory McCarthy and two colleagues at Oxford University reported in the November 17 issue of the journal *Nature* that they believe word recognition resides in a structure called the anterior fusiform gyrus of the inferior temporal lobe.

(The temporal lobes are two brain structures that originate above the ears and stretch forward like stubby arms.)

Electrodes were placed on the surface of brains of 27 people with uncontrollable epilepsy who were undergoing evaluation for brain surgery.

Brain activity was then measured when the subjects looked at various images, including individual words in sentences, for a fraction of a second.

There was little activity in either the anterior fusiform gyrus or the posterior one, just to the rear of it, when pictures of faces, complex objects such as butterflies and cars, or a checkerboard pattern were presented.

Words and nonsense "letter strings" caused activity in the posterior gyrus.

Cells in the anterior gyrus, however, fired only when the letters made words. There was most activity when a word had specific

meaning, as opposed to having primarily a grammatical function. Most interestingly, activity in the anterior gyrus fell off greatly when a word's meaning could be anticipated.

For example, the researchers showed subjects the sentences, "She rang the church bell" and "She rang the church egg."

They measured anterior fusiform gyrus activity during presentation of the last word of each sentence. There was less cell-firing for "bell" than "egg."

This suggests that understanding of the word "bell" may have already occurred by the time the word was presented and anterior gyrus activity measured.

Overall, the experiments suggest that "wordedness" and some

amount of word meaning reside in this part of the brain. Medicine has had indirect evidence of this for decades.

People who have had strokes in this region sometimes are left with "alexia" - the inability to read - and "agnosia" - the inability to name objects.

(The Washington Post)

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# Man. United captures top spot

LONDON (Reuter) - Champions Manchester United went top of the Premier League, for 24 hours at least, when they won 3-0 at Manchester City yesterday, thanks to second-half goals from Paul Ince, Andrei Kanchelskis and Andy Cole.

United, who last led the table at the end of November, moved on to 60 points, one clear of Blackburn, who play Sheffield Wednesday at home today.

United made the breakthrough in the 122nd Manchester derby after 58 minutes when Ince's shot took a deflection and wrong-footed reserve goalkeeper Andy Dibble.

Kanchelskis made it 2-0 with a powerful drive after 74 minutes and Cole, who last week scored his first goal for United since his £7 million transfer from Newcastle, scored again with a simple run-in three minutes later.

Third-placed Newcastle, virtually back to full strength after being hit by a flu epidemic last week, beat sixth-placed Nottingham Forest 2-1, while fifth-placed Liverpool were held to a 1-1 draw at home by relegation-threatened Queens Park Rangers.

Aston Villa scored the biggest victory in the Premier League this season, crushing Wimbledon 7-1 - after Wimbledon went ahead in the 11th minute.

Tom Johnson, who joined Villa with Gary Charles in a combined £2.9m. deal from Derby five weeks ago, scored his first goals since his move - a 16-minute first-half hat-trick.

Dean Saunders scored twice, once from the spot.

Arsenal's woeeful home form continued as the Gunners, without a league win at Highbury

since October 23, were held to a 1-1 draw by bottom-placed Leicester.

There was joy for the home fans, as Paul Merson scored for the first time since returning to the side following his drug rehabilitation.

But that was countered by the news that midfielder Ian Selley suffered a broken leg after a collision with Leicester's Mark Draper after six minutes.

Merson scored with a powerful shot after 52 minutes. Draper equalized 12 minutes from time after holding off challenges by Nigel Winterburn and Tony Adams before drilling past goalkeeper David Seaman in Leicester's first real attack of the game.

Another goal scored in the closing stages enabled Chelsea to

PREMIER LEAGUE: Arsenal 1, Leicester 1; Aston Villa 7, Wimbledon 1; Chelsea 1, Tottenham 1; Crystal Palace 0, Coventry 2; Leeds 0, Ipswich 0; Liverpool 1, Queens Park Rangers 1; Manchester City 4, Manchester United 3; Newcastle 2, Nottingham Forest 1; Norwich 2, Southampton 2.

Man Utd	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	28	18	5	5	41	21	60
Blackburn	27	18	5	4	36	24	59
Newcastle	26	14	9	3	47	30	51
Liverpool	27	13	9	5	46	22	48
Tottenham	26	13	7	8	41	31	46
Not Forest	27	12	7	8	42	38	43
Leeds	26	10	7	9	34	35	39
Sheff Wed	27	10	9	8	36	35	39
Wimbledon	27	10	11	16	37	58	31
Norwich	27	9	10	17	37	58	29
Aston Villa	26	9	10	17	37	58	29
Crystal Palace	27	8	10	18	31	54	24
Sheff Utd	27	8	10	18	31	54	24
Queens Park Rangers	27	8	10	18	31	54	24
Manchester City	27	8	10	18	31	54	24
Coventry	27	8	10	18	31	54	24
Ipswich	27	8	10	18	31	54	24
Leicester	27	8	10	18	31	54	24

DIVISION ONE: Burnley 2, Tranmere 2; Charlton 1, Sunderland 0; Grimsby 5, Luton 0; Notts County 2, Southend 2; Oldham 1, Middlesbrough 0; Port Vale 1, West Bromwich Albion 0; Portsmouth 1, Millwall 0; Reading 1, Derby 0; Sheffield United 1, Stoke 1; Watford 2, Burnley 0; Wolves 2, Bristol City 0.

Sheff Utd	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	30	14	8	8	50	32	51
Huddersfield	29	15	9	5	39	29	54
Tranmere	30	14	8	8	48	35	50
Reading	30	14	8	8	48	35	50
Middlesbrough	29	14	7	9	41	28	49
Watford	30	12	11	7	36	28	47
Sheff United	30	12	10	8	46	34	46
Grimsby	30	11	11	8	47	40	44
Barnsley	29	12	8	9	36	42	42
Luton	29	11	7	11	36	40	40
Walsley	28	10	8	10	35	31	38
Derby	29	10	9	10	43	45	39
Charlton	29	10	9	10	35	31	38
Southend	30	10	8	12	31	34	38
Stoke	29	9	11	10	34	34	36
Port Vale	28	9	8	11	34	35	35
West Ham	29	9	9	11	30	34	33
Sheff Wed	27	8	11	11	36	43	35
Sunderland	27	7	11	12	37	52	32
Bristol City	28	8	9	13	25	41	30
Burnley	27	8	9	13	25	41	30
Northampton	27	8	9	13	25	41	30
Sheff Wed	27	8	9	13	25	41	30
Sheff Wed	27	8	9	13	25	41	30

DIVISION TWO: Blackpool 2, Oxford United 1; Rotherham 0, Brighton 3; Bradford 4, Bradford 1; Bristol Rovers 1, Cambridge United 0; Cardiff vs. Leyton Orient 0; Crewe 2, Birmingham 1; Peterborough 1, Plymouth 2; Rotherham 3, Swansea 3; Shrewsbury 2, Wycombe 2; Stockport 2, Chester 1; Wrexham 1, Huddersfield 1; York vs. Hull 0.

Sheff Utd	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	29	17	4	8	59	38	55
Huddersfield	29	15	9	5	51	24	54
Rotherham	27	15	8	4	49	19	53
Crewe	28	16	4	8	56	47	52
Wycombe	27	14	8	7	40	49	50
Blackpool	30	15	4	11	50	30	50
Oxford United	28	14	8	8	45	37	49
Hull	28	13	8	8	37	38	49
Bristol Rovers	28	11	10	9	43	43	43
Stockport	28	13	4	11	43	43	43
Cardiff	28	12	7	10	41	42	43
Leiston	28	11	8	11	34	41	41
York	27	12	5	10	36	27	41
Swansea	27	9	12	8	35	29	39
Tottenham	28	9	8	11	38	35	35
Brighton	27	9	10	9	30	34	35
Sheff Wed	28	8	12	9	30	32	34
Peterborough	28	7	11	10	34	52	32
Cambridge	28	7	9	13	39	50	32
Plymouth	28	7	9	13	39	50	32
Bournemouth	28	7	9	13	39	50	32
Cardiff	28	7	9	13	39	50	32
Leyton Orient	28	5	9	15	22	43	24
Sheff Wed	28	5	7	15	22	43	24
Sheff Wed	28	5	7	15	22	43	24

salvage a 1-1 home draw against Tottenham in a London derby which Gerry Francis's resurgent team dominated after Teddy Sheringham put them ahead after eight minutes.

Dennis Wise, who faces a possible jail sentence after being convicted of assaulting a taxi driver earlier this week, was Chelsea's late point-saver, preserving their five-year long unbeaten record against Spurs.

Sheff Utd	28	12	5	11	35	29	41
Carlisle	27	14	7	6	37	26	49
Walsall	28	13	7	8	43	24	48
Doncaster	28	12	6	10	35	28	44
Scunthorpe	27	12	5	10	48	38	41
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# Army to probe death of Druse major

CHIEF of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, decided Friday to appoint former chief of staff Moshe Levy to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Maj. Kawaan Hamad last December in south Lebanon.

Hamad was killed during a clash with Hizbullah near Jabel Bint, in the western sector of the

security zone, on December 19. According to a Friday report in *Kol-Ba*, a local Haifa newspaper, Hamad was killed by IDF fire when soldiers were conducting a "kill verification" after their armored personnel carriers were ambushed by members of the Hizbullah.

OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine denied the

ALON PINKAS

report and said Hamad was shot in the head by Hizbullah, but may have been hit by IDF fire after he was killed.

The story also said that the circumstances of Hamad's death were concealed from his family. It quotes Levine as saying that "there are problems with the

Druse faith and the way they treat death, which is why not all details of Kawaan's death were given to his family."

Levine said in response that he referred to the Druse sensitivity, but that his words had been maliciously taken out of their proper context.

Levine will investigate both the details given to the family and its

compatibility with the real circumstances of Hamad's death, as they were reported in army debriefings.

Members of Hamad's family, which lives in Ma'ar, near Tiberias, said that Levine visited them on Friday, explained the circumstances of the battle, and as far as they are concerned, the entire incident is closed.

# Kach activist arrested for carrying bombs

BILL HUTMAN

A KACH activist was arrested Friday in Jerusalem carrying two home-made bombs police said he allegedly planned to use against Arabs in eastern Jerusalem.

Police by chance detained the activist during a raid of the Kach-affiliated Yeshiva of The Jewish Idea. Two other Kach activists were detained during the raid, which was carried out under court order.

The two were released later, while the activist carrying the bombs remained in custody over the weekend. He told investigators the two bottles of acid and ball bearings he was carrying were meant to clean clogged drains.

Detectives confiscated allegedly provocative material found at the yeshiva, including posters calling for a memorial service later this week to mark the yahrzeit of Baruch Goldstein, who was killed after he gunned down Muslim worshippers in Hebron last February.

Later Friday, Police raided the homes of six other Kach members in Petah Tikvah, Mevaseret Zion, Kiryat Arba, and Hebron. No other arrests were made.

Police, meanwhile, were bracing for the possibility of attacks by both Jewish and Arab extremists this week, aimed at coinciding with the first anniversary of the Machpela Cave massacre.

# Nimrodi to be questioned for fifth time today

MA'ARIV owner and editor Ofer Nimrodi will be questioned today for the fifth time in a week regarding his alleged involvement in commissioning illegal wiretaps and disrupting the police investigation of the case.

The police are believed to be wrapping up their investigation into cases involving the wiretapping of phones, faxes and cellular phones of more than two hundred politicians, businessmen,

private investigators and media personnel.

They are also trying to discover who commissioned the bugging of Ma'ariv workers' phones inside the daily's Tel Aviv offices. So far the phones of former marketing director Ya'acov Kedmi, computer manager Giora Gilad and journalist Amnon Abramovitz were found to be bugged.

Abramovitz resigned after he identified his own voice on a tape

RAINE MARCUS

found to be in the possession of private investigators Yisrael Shalom and Mordechai Podim, who are reportedly cooperating with police. The two have also been interrogated over the past few days.

Only two private investigators, Rafi Friedan and Ya'acov Tsar, have been charged, with 40 offenses related to large-scale wire-

tapping. They refuse to disclose who hired them.

When Nimrodi was questioned, also under caution, several months ago, he refused to cooperate with police, but now he is reportedly answering detectives' questions.

But Ma'ariv and Hachsharat Hayishuv security officer, David Ronen, 67, who was remanded for four days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court on Thursday,

is only answering selected questions, police sources said.

Ronen was ostensibly arrested for the bugging of Kedmi's phone, disrupting investigations by failing to report the bug and paying bribes to a senior Bezek official.

But police sources said this is only the "tip of the iceberg" and they hope his detention will help them crack other aspects of the complex case.

# Buddhists stop here en route from Auschwitz to Hiroshima

BATSHEVA TSUR

A GROUP of Buddhist priests from Japan, leading a 60-member interfaith delegation, is here on the second leg of a pilgrimage from Auschwitz to Hiroshima.

The group is spending almost three weeks of its eight-month-long pilgrimage in Israel, because of the centrality it attaches to Jerusalem as a spiritual center between Auschwitz and Hiroshima, according to Japanese-born architect Fumikatsu Inoue, who lives here.

The pilgrimage started December 4 with a week-long fast and an interdenominational prayer convocation at Auschwitz. There was no special Jewish prayer held at the ceremony, although Jewish members recited their own prayers.

The pilgrimage coincides with the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, and will end in Hiroshima on August 6, the anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb there.

"We are not bringing a political message but rather a human one," Inoue said yesterday.

"This is an answer to the revisionist forces - including those in Japan - who say there was no Holocaust. We have to stop that cancer," he said.

Inoue has written a play based on the diaries of Janusz Korczak, which will be shown in Tokyo at the conclusion of the pilgrimage.

The group's avowed purpose is "to offer prayers for the victims of all wars and to reflect on the military invasions and human tragedies of World War II."



The interfaith delegation led by Buddhist priests marches near Tiberias on Thursday on their 'pilgrimage for peace' from Auschwitz to Hiroshima. (Reuters)

In addition to some 25 Buddhists, its members include Jews, Catholics, Protestants and American Indians, according to Buddhist member Osamu Shimoda.

From Auschwitz, they marched in deep snow and sleet through the Czech Republic, Austria and the former Yugoslavia. In the villages, people came out to cheer them along and invit-

ed them to their homes, he said.

From Israel, they will continue - wherever possible on foot - through Jordan and Iraq, where they plan to bring antibiotics to children in outlying villages.

Their itinerary includes places like Bangkok and Singapore, where the Japanese army was responsible for the brutal deaths of locals and foreign POWs.

In Israel, the pilgrimage aims to show "the pluralistic coexistence of the people," Inoue said. So far, the members have prayed at Beit Lid, site of last month's suicide bomb attack, at the Catholic Notre Dame Cathedral in Jerusalem, and on the Mount of Beatitudes.

They also visited the settlement of Tekoa this week, where they were received with bread and salt by Rabbi Menahem Froman and local schoolchildren.

The highlight of the visit will be next Sunday, when, following their visit to the Temple Mount and praying near the Western Wall, the group will march through the streets of Jerusalem to Yad Vashem.

# 'Diaspora interfering in selection of next Agency boss'

DIASPORA Jewish leaders are interfering in the selection of the next Jewish Agency chairman instead of allowing Israel to elect the candidate democratically, Uri Gordon, head of the agency's aliya department, charged Thursday.

"The selection of the next chairman of the Jewish Agency

will be made, not by the Labor Party, but in fact by an intimate panel of Diaspora Jewish leaders," Gordon said. "The original intent, in setting up an 'advise and consent committee' [of Diaspora leaders], was that they would discuss with Israel the candidates' ability for the particular position," Gordon said. "It was

not intended that they would select the candidate."

Gordon took the committee of 10 to task for threatening to veto the candidacy of one or both of the candidates that appeared before them in New York on January 24 - acting chairman Yehiel Leket and MK Avraham Burg.

He noted that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had specifically requested in a letter to the committee that it refrain from doing this, so that the Labor Party's central committee could vote for

BATSHEVA TSUR

its choice in a democratic fashion.

Gordon cited examples of the developing process: "In 1977, the committee refused to confirm Yoram Aridor for the position of treasurer, despite the support of then-prime minister Menachem Begin. In 1983, [it] refused to allow Rafael Koltowitz to continue as head of the immigration department...over the objections of then-prime minister Yitzhak Shamir." He said many candidates had "failed to meet the unknown, unwritten criteria of the committee."

Charging that the two sides are "unable to maintain a framework

of serious, professional consultation," Gordon proposed a solution: "Let the Israelis choose the agency chairman and the Diaspora leaders choose the chairman of the board of governors. This must be done with mutual consultation and understanding," he said.

Meanwhile, four members of the committee - board chairman Mendel Kaplan, and Max Fisher, Shoshana Cardin and Julia Kozchitzky - will meet with Rabin to discuss the candidates on Tuesday. Following the meeting, they will hold a conference call with the other committee members.

Israel's New Future-Interviews, by Manfred Gerstenfeld, consists of a series of 16 interviews with Israeli experts and thinkers on important facets of the country's future. It deals with likely changes, and those considered crucial to the country's development. A panorama of Israel's problems and the keys to solving them are examined. Subjects include: relations with the US, Europe, the Vatican, the Islamic world and Jews abroad; social, economic, cultural and environmental issues; and special communities, such as the ultra-Orthodox and kibbutz movement. Softcover, 229 pp.

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Manfred Gerstenfeld

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Morocco to export shale oil to Israel

Morocco will export a consignment of bituminous shale to Israel in an experiment to produce cheap electricity, a Moroccan weekly reported.

The economic weekly *La Vie Economique* said the accord was signed between Morocco's state utility Office National d'Electricite and Israel's PAMA company.

The project involves the export of 300 to 400 tons of shale - rock from which oil can be extracted - from three sites in Morocco to a pilot plant in Israel. The newspaper did not say how much Israel is paying for the shale. (Reuters)

## Two boys drown in river

Two nine-year-old boys drowned Friday afternoon after they were swept into a channel of a river that passes under the Kfar Hanagid bridge near Yavne.

Another boy who was with them managed to extricate himself.

The three boys entered the water at about 3:40 p.m., and when two of them were caught up in the current, the third boy ran home to get help. Rescue workers and a police helicopter arrived on the scene, along with divers, who searched for the two. Firemen eventually pulled the boys' bodies out of the water.

During the rescue, a collision between a car and a truck occurred near the site. The driver of the car was seriously injured. (Idm)

## Girl hurt in fall

A 14-year-old girl sustained moderate injuries Friday when she fell down a hole near Jerusalem's Givat Mordechai neighborhood.

The girl had approached the hole with two friends and fell into it when she lost her balance. Her friends alerted rescue units.

She then yelled up to the rescuers that she had hurt her back, and a fireman entered the pit and attached a harness to her. Rescuers then pulled her out and brought her to Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Karem.

Two years ago, three boys fell into the same hole and also suffered injuries. (Idm)

## New nominee to head El Al board

Yossi Chahover is to head El Al's board of directors, instead of Yossi Rosen, who dropped out because of a conflict of interest, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Transportation Minister Yisrael Kassar announced Friday.

Chahover was the president of P.E.C. in the US, a subsidiary of IDB, and also Bank Discount's chairman of the board. His nomination still requires the approval of the Ben-Dor appointments committee.

El Al's new board will take over this week, when the national airline officially emerges from 13 years of receivership.

## Foreign workers demonstrate over pay

Hundreds of Romanian and Thai workers demonstrated near a construction site in Hod Hasharon on Friday, demanding two months' back pay.

The workers said the Isracan construction company owed each of them thousands of shekels in wages.

The company has gone bankrupt and work at the site has stopped.

An attorney for Isracan said on Thursday that the workers, who have threatened to stage a hunger strike, would get a few hundred dollars, but not the entire amount they are owed. (Reuters)

## New director for US Nazi-hunter office

Eli Rosenbaum, a career government attorney, was named director of the US Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which searches for Nazi war criminals in the US.

Rosenbaum, 39, has been acting director of OSI since March 1994. He replaces Neal Sher, who left to become executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Rosenbaum joined the special investigations office upon graduating from Harvard Law School in 1980. He has remained there since, except for four years in New York as a corporate litigator and then general counsel for the World Jewish Congress.

## Kibbutzim reject rescue package

Kibbutz movement representatives have rejected the government's NIS 5.8 billion rescue package, saying it didn't meet their needs, the Treasury said last night.

The representatives are asking for a more costly debt arrangement plan, and are not willing to have the wealthier kibbutzim financially assist the weaker ones to the extent stipulated in the Treasury's proposed program.

The government is asking the kibbutzim to sell about NIS 1 billion in land as well as transfer half of Tuva, Hamaishbir Lazarchan and 10 percent of Kibbutz Industries to the government to help pay for the rescue package.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said there would be no further negotiations on a follow-up kibbutz debt arrangement unless these requests are accepted.